

U.S. delays Saudi jet sale

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration is delaying action on its plan to sell new warplanes to Saudi Arabia in the face of congressional anger at Saudi actions following the Iraqi attack on a U.S. frigate.

Opponents of the plan are using the alleged failure of the Saudis to force down the Iraqi Mirage that attacked the USS Stark to try to get Congress to veto the sale of 12 F-15 fighters worth \$500 million.

White House officials Thursday acknowledged they had a problem in their hands when they said that informal notification to Congress on the sale had been put off, citing the current "political climate."

Presidential Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said on Wednesday that notification would be sent to Congress next week, setting in motion a process that would inevitably involve a bruising fight.

But he told reporters Thursday there was no timetable, adding, "after consultation with Congress we will send it up at the most propitious time."

That time seemed further off Thursday as Senate Democratic majority leader Robert Byrd

voiced opposition to the sale and four senators introduced legislation to block it, citing the alleged failure of Saudi jets to force down the Iraqi Mirage.

Administration officials said U.S. officials on the spot had asked that two Saudi F-15s that were in the air when the Stark was hit by Iraqi missiles intercept the attacking plane and force it down on Saudi territory.

The Saudi pilots were said to be eager to go into action, but before they could get proper authority from the ground, the Iraqi plane was well on the way to its home base and the Saudi planes were running low on fuel.

American officials had no complaint with the Saudi perform-

ance and pointed out there was no prearranged procedure for dealing with such a situation.

One official said that if the situation were reversed and U.S. aircraft had been asked for foreign officials to force down the plane of a friendly country, the issue would probably have been referred all the way to the White House.

Sales of sophisticated weapons to the Saudis have traditionally provoked bitter fights between administrations and Congress.

Last June, the Senate — then controlled by Republicans — just cleared a \$265 million sale of missiles only after 200 Stinger ground-to-air missiles had been stripped from the package.

Murphy: Iran unlikely to attack U.S.-flag bearing ships

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A top U.S. official, trying to allay fears about plans to bring Kuwaiti ships under American flags, has said Iran would be unlikely to attack such vessels out of concern of provoking a war with the United States.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy also said it would be a "major strategic defeat" (for the United States) should a power hostile to us, such as the Soviets or such as Iran at this time, increases its power and influence in the Gulf.

The United States has agreed to bring 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers under the U.S. flag in an effort to protect them from Iranian attacks in the Gulf.

While the plan has been under discussion since late December, it has raised new questions of risk, particularly in Congress, since last Sunday's attack on the U.S. navy frigate Stark by Iraqi missiles that killed 37 sailors.

The Senate Thursday, voted 91 to 5 to stop the administration from implementing the scheme until it submits a full security plan for U.S. and allied forces in the Gulf. But the measure cannot become law unless also passed by the House.

"There are numerous factors which suggest to us they will not attack our naval ships or American flag ships," said Mr. Murphy in a briefing to reporters, just after his return from a 10-day trip to the region.

"In its nearly seven-year-old war with Iraq, Iran has not attacked U.S. ships, he noted.

"Attacks on armed military vessels would add a new dimension to the war. They would divert Iranian attention from its principle enemy, Iraq. Iran has not won that war and we think it would be reluctant to initiate actions that could provoke a second," Mr. Murphy said.

"We believe that Iran would be reluctant to engage the U.S. militarily because of concern over our response."

Mr. Murphy said Iranian officials have repeatedly stated they will not attack unless provoked.

"Where is the provocation in assuring the innocent passage of American escorted ships in international waters?" he said.

He also said the Iranians have been "scrupulous" about checking out the identity of vessels before taking any action.

Mr. Murphy was asked how a recent Iranian attack on a Soviet ship squared with his assessment of the risk to U.S. ships.

That hit was made by a lightly-armed patrol boat probably manned by members of the Iran Revolutionary Guard, a group believed to have a less unified command structure than Iran's army, air force or navy, he said.

"There is an element of unpredictability there. We don't deny it. There is a risk there. We don't deny it. That there are interests and principles at stake, we very strongly affirm," Mr. Murphy said.

The navy Thursday extended the tour of duty of one of seven U.S. warships in the Gulf to maintain a solid American presence there.

The guided missile frigate Groves, which was scheduled to return to the United States on June 15, will remain in the Gulf

until at least early August, the Defense Department said.

The Groves and Stark, which was badly damaged by two missiles fired by an Iraqi F-1 fighter jet on Sunday, are among seven U.S. navy ships in the Gulf Task Force protecting American shipping from attacks.

"We want to maintain a credible presence there," one defense official, who requested anonymity, told Reuters.

"The Stark is out of commission, and the return of the Groves as scheduled in June would have reduced us to three guided missile destroyers and one guided missile frigate in addition to the (command ship) Lathrop," the official said.

No date has been set for the Stark to return home.

Defense officials refused to say whether the navy will replace the damaged frigate in preparing the task force to protect 11 Kuwaiti tankers which will soon fly the U.S. flag.

Iran has been attacking shipping connected with Kuwait be-

cause it claims the Gulf state supports Iraq.

Congressional concern has mounted as the United States moves toward providing armed escort for tankers in the Gulf but Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the country must face up to its responsibilities.

The Senate has called on President Ronald Reagan to inform Congress of the risks of growing U.S. involvement in the Gulf.

But Mr. Reagan declared Thursday he had no intention of letting the attack on the guided missile frigate force the United States to abandon plans to increase protection of the Gulf's shipping lanes.

"As we grieve the loss of our brave sons, let no one doubt our resolve to protect our vital interests in the Gulf or anywhere else," Mr. Reagan said.

On Friday, the president and Mrs. Reagan will fly to Mayport naval station near Jacksonville, Florida, for a memorial service with relatives of the sailors killed in Sunday's raid.

Text of Iraqi president's message to Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — Following is the text of a letter to President Reagan from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. It was obtained by Reuters from sources who asked not to be identified.

Excellency:

"On the occasion of the funeral ceremony of the victims lost in the grievous and unintentional incident that has happened to the American frigate Stark, I would like to express to you again my condolences and feelings of grief.

"May I also ask you to convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims as they bid their dear ones last farewell. All the Iraqis and I feel most profoundly the sorrow of moments such as these, since we have ourselves lost a great many of our dear ones in this war which has been raging for seven years while the Iranian government still persists in perpetrating death and destruction and in rejecting our appeals and those of the international community for a just and

honourable peace an objective no doubt that is long desired by all those who believe in God, and in justice and brotherhood amongst peoples.

"We do not misrepresent the truth and its very essence when we stress, with firm conviction, that sorrow and regret are not enough to reflect the tragedy of the victims that have fallen as a result of this war and the confusion and complexity surrounding it.

"Amongst the victims are these sons of yours whom you are bidding farewell today. Here we are witnessing the circumstances of the war become even more complicated, the number of victims grow higher and higher, and the grave and painful consequences get more exacerbated because of the intransigence and anomalous stand of Iran.

"This makes it incumbent upon us to carry on tirelessly with our efforts to stop this bloody human tragedy which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands, burnt with its flames the people

of Iraq and Iran, caused anxiety to many others in the region and the world at large, and caused through its confusion and complexity the loss of people from other countries who were in the area for various reasons.

"Rest, assured, that the grief which you feel as a result of the loss of your sons is our grief too.

"Our humane principles and the sentiments of friendship that we have toward peoples everywhere, including the people of the United States whose friendship we wish to preserve, make us sad to see anybody hurt by this war or by the immediate or long-term consequences it entails.

"I as well as all Iraqis share with you your grief in moments such as these and wish we could do anything that might alleviate the grief of the victims' families. Please accept our most deeply felt condolences."

The letter, dated May 21, is signed "Saddam Hussein, president of the Republic of Iraq."

Iranian gunboat attacks Qatari ship

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — An Iranian gunboat attacked a small Qatari ship sailing to Kuwait despite Saudi Arabian air control and Kuwait navy patrols in the area, shipping executives said Friday.

It fired rocket-propelled grenades into the 2,596-tonne Rashidah and raked it with machine-gun fire, badly injuring three crewmen and gutting the engine room and crew quarters, they said.

The disabled freighter was drifting in Gulf waters following Thursday night's attack, said the Gulf-based executives, who spoke on condition they not be named.

The Doha-based owners, Qatari National Navigation and Transport Co., issued a statement confirming the attack. They said the Rashidah was attacked with about 12 rockets and raked by about a hundred machine gun volleys.

The company statement, distributed by the Qatari News Agency, described the injuries sustained by the three seamen as "critical."

It said the vessel was in danger of sinking after sustaining "tremendous damage," with its engines, generators, accommodation quarters and lifeboats destroyed.

It said a Saudi vessel helped save 15 members of the crew and was transporting them to the Saudi Gulf city of Jubail for treatment for minor injuries. The attack took place 72 kilometres from the Saudi coast at 10 p.m. (2100 GMT), it said.

The captain is Egyptian and the crew from various Arab nations. The statement referred to an "unidentified naval gunboat," but the shipping executives identified it as Iranian. They said the speeding boat was probably manned by Iranian Revolutionary Guards, who have been responsible for launching attacks.

Israel orders Kimche not to give evidence to U.S. on Iran scandal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has ordered former top Foreign Ministry official David Kimche not to give evidence to a U.S. grand jury which has subpoenaed him to testify on the Iran arms scandal, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ehud Gol said Friday.

"He certainly will make it very clear to them that he cannot speak," Gol told Reuters. "He is doing so on instructions."

Kimche, visiting the United States as a private businessman, was subpoenaed by special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh as part of a probe into the secret sale of American arms to Iran in 1985-86, in which Israel was a key intermediary.

The move angered Israel, which says it has an understanding with the U.S. State Department that evidence would be handled on a government-to-government basis, without individual Israeli officials having to testify in person before a U.S. court or parliamentary panel.

Kimche was director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry during the affair. A U.S. presidential commission concluded he played an important part in persuading the Reagan administration to make the first arms shipments to

Iran in 1985.

Gol said Israel was in a constant contact with the U.S. authorities in an effort to have the subpoena against Kimche withdrawn.

"We still hope they will reverse the order for him to appear, but if he has to go, he will say nothing," he said.

Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein said in a radio interview: "It's inconceivable that we would summon the State Department director to court here to testify on matters involving his position."

"It follows that it's inconceivable that Mr. Kimche be compelled to testify on matters involving his position... This is something which is unacceptable, inadmissible, in international relations under any circumstances."

Rubinstein, a close aide of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said only Israel could decide what secret information to release, without coercion.

"We respect all the American authorities but will insist on our interests, the principle of sovereignty and the voluntary transfer of this material," he said.

Israel has so far given the U.S. government a detailed chronolo-

gy of its financial dealings in the Iran arms affair, to be passed on to two congressional committees investigating the affair.

Rubinstein said Israel had allowed special prosecutor Walsh to study that material.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman confirmed that the subpoena had been issued but dissociated the U.S. government from the decision.

"That decision was made by the independent counsel acting under his own authority," Mr. Redman said. He referred all questions on the subject to Mr. Walsh.

A spokesman for Mr. Walsh, Dennis Feldman, declined to comment on the subject.

Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne met Thursday with Undersecretary of State Michael Ammann to "see what could be done," said an embassy official.

The official, who spoke on condition of not being identified, said Rosenne had also spoken to Mr. Walsh and asked him to rescind the summons. Mr. Walsh has so far refused, said the official, "but negotiations are continuing."

Shamir names Shin Bet panel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has appointed a committee to investigate the scandal-plagued Shin Bet security service in an apparent attempt to avoid an outside probe of its interrogation methods.

Shamir, who is responsible for the activities of the domestic security force, asked former state controller Yitzhak Tunik and retired spy-master Zvi Zamir to lead the inquiry, the prime minister's office said in a statement.

Armed Forces Radio said Shamir appointed the committee in an effort to head off any decision by the supreme court to order a judicial or police investigation into Shin Bet interrogation procedures.

Retired U.S. general 'gave idea' for arms funds diversion

WASHINGTON (R) — Retired army General John Singlaub may have inadvertently sown the seed for the diversion of Iran arms sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels by showing Oliver North a plan he had to aid the Contras in 1985.

That plan, which Gen. Singlaub outlined at Thursday's hearing of the House and Senate committees probing the Iran-contras scandal, called for the United States to sell arms, through an intermediary, to a third country at an inflated price with the make-up to go to the rebels, known as "contras."

Gen. Singlaub, a fundraiser and arms supplier to the contras,

has close ties to government officials in a third country, which is being referred to in the hearings as "country three," but which congressional sources have identified as Taiwan.

"It looks like they took your proposal for 'country three,' and applied it to country X... in this case Iran," said Sen. William Cohen, a Maine Republican.

Sen. Cohen later said he had no direct evidence Gen. Singlaub's 1985 plan was used as a blueprint for the scheme fired White House aide Col. North is alleged to have masterminded to divert millions of dollars from the arms sale to the contras last year.

Beirut kidnappers accuse four hostages of spying

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese kidnappers holding three Americans and an Indian say they have evidence the four hostages were involved with U.S. and Israeli intelligence services.

A statement by the group, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, said it was waiting for "the completion of this information and the necessary measures to take the adequate action, to bring the four to reckoning and announce the outcome of the investigation."

The handwritten Arabic statement was delivered to the Beirut newspaper An Nahar, along with a photograph of American hostage Alanna Steen to prove its authenticity.

"On the occasion of Jerusalem's International Day, we declare the current investigation

with the four American spies reveals serious information about involvement of high ranking political, educational and diplomatic figures in conspiring with the Israeli Mossad secret service and the U.S. intelligence," the statement said.

The two-page statement gave no further details. All four hostages were professors at the U.S.-affiliated Beirut University College, from where they were snatched by gunmen disguised as police on Jan. 24.

A senior Israeli military official contacted by the Associated Press in Tel Aviv said, "it is the first time I bear such rubbish."

The statement came as Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalists, headed by Hezbollah, or the Party of God, staged mass rallies and parades in south-

ern Beirut and South Lebanon to mark the "Iranian-sponsored 'Jerusalem Day'."

Most of the statement was devoted to criticism of Arab divisions and "deviation from Islam in seeking the liberation of Palestine."

The timing and content of the document indicated that the mysterious Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine group might be linked to Iran.

The four hostages allegedly involved in spying activities are Steen, 48; Jesse Turner, 39; Robert Polblin, 53; and Ritheshwar Singh, 60, a native of India and legal resident alien of the United States.

The kidnappers have been demanding the release of 400 Arab prisoners held in Israel in return for the release of the professors.

Israel has rejected the demand while the U.S. government declared it would not press the Israeli government to change its mind.

The four academics are part of the group of 24 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon since March 1985. The group consists of eight Americans, six Frenchmen, two Britons, two West Germans, one Irishman, one Italian, one South Korean, an Indian and two unidentified men.

Terry Waite, the Anglican Church envoy, who made several trips to Lebanon to negotiate the release of some hostages, has also been missing since Jan. 20, when he left his Beirut hotel for a rendezvous with a group of kidnappers.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Koran
14:15 Programme Review
14:40 Local content
14:45 Local puzzle
15:10 Cooking programme
15:30 Arabic stories
15:45 Arabic series
16:00 Local series
16:45 Arabic comedy
16:50 Religious programme
17:25 Ramadan competition
18:00 News in Arabic
18:30 Message from Iraq
18:45 Arabic series
19:30 Religious series
20:00 Arabic series
20:30 News Summary
21:00 Celebrations of the 27th night of Ramadan
24:00 Religious programme

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Nouveaux Mondes, Eps. 6
19:00 News in French
19:15 La force du destin
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Science World
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Dad's Army
21:00 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: "Promises to Keep"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel. 77111-19

07:30 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
09:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 25 Years of Rock
12:00 News Summary
12:05 The Decade
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:00 Pop Session contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Jordan Weekly
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
17:00 Special Feature
17:30 Music
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsweek
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Rock Profile

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsweek 07:30 Here's the Humph
07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News
08:00 World News 08:30 Society Today
08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsweek
09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News
10:00 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30
From the Weeklies 10:45 Network UK
11:00 World News 11:30 Reflections
11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World
News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15
The World Today 12:30 Financial
News 12:45 Society Today 13:00 News
Summary: Here's the Humph 13:15 Letter
from America 13:30 People and Politics
14:00 World News 14:05 News About
Britain 14:15 Great Organists Play Bach
14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsweek
15:15 Music for the Sun King 15:45
Sports Roundup 16:00 World News
16:30 Network UK 16:45 Saturday
Special 17:30 News Summary: Saturday
Special 17:30 Saturday Special 18:00
Radio Newsweek 18:15 Saturday Special
19:00 World News 19:05 Commentary
19:15 Saturday Special 20:00 News
Summary: Saturday Special 20:45
Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsweek
21:30 Play of the Week: Dragon 22:00
Dragon (contd.) 23:00 World News
23:30 24-Hour: News Summary 23:30
Jazz for the Asking 00:15 Gershwin
Among Friends 00:30 People and Politics
01:00 World News 02:30 Anything Goes

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 12210 Hz

06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 07:00
News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News
08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10
News 09:20 News Bulletin 10:00
Closeup 10:30 Press Conference, USA
10:45 News 11:00 American Viewpoints
11:30 Press Conference, USA 23:00
News 23:10 Music USA Jazz 23:45
Editorial 24:00 News 00:10 Weekend

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

LECTURE

* A scientific lecture on the interactions of herbicides and plant diseases, by visiting American Professor Dr. Jack Alkhatib, at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan at 10:00 a.m. Saturday.

EXHIBITION

* Artistic exhibition including 50 plates, by Jordanian plastic artist Motahammad Sabah Khatib. At exhibition hall, Plaza Hotel. The exhibition runs through Wednesday.

VIDEO

* "Helen" Alice set loose... at 4:00 p.m., at French Cultural Centre.

* Der Gesessene Kater, 4:30 p.m., at the Goethe Institute.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 64371
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64203
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620409
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195
Filinvest Youth City .. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843353

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Felderer Museum: Jewellery and costumes from 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 13th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

JORDAN NATIONAL GALLERY

Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustafa Jaber Lubiedeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630122.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum)

Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Boys Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816334, 817334.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lubiedeh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Lubiedeh, miss in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abadi, Tel. 623343.
Assumption Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, Tel. 623363.
Assumption Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Assumption Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Assumption International Church (Interdenominational) meet at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Suile), Tel. 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 533005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

04:15 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:05 Santa (RJ)
05:05 Tripoli (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
08:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
08:30 Damascus (RJ)
11:45 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:45 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
18:00 Larissa (RJ)
18:20 New York, Vienna (RJ)
19:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
22:00 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU)
13:30 Cairo (MS)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
16:10 Riyadh (SV)

Crown Prince begins working tour of Britain

LONDON (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath began a working visit to Britain on Friday. During the visit, Prince Hassan will meet with a number of senior British officials to discuss questions of interest of Britain and Jordan, including cooperation in a number of fields.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived in London on Thursday evening. Upon their arrival at Heathrow Airport, they were greeted by a number of British officials and Jordan's ambassador and embassy staff.

Prince Hassan will take part in a number of cultural, scientific and industrial activities that will take place during his visit.

Prince Hassan is expected to deliver an address on June 2 in which he will outline Jordanian economic development and the country's five-year national development plan.

In another address to the Anglo-Jordanian Friendship Society on May 28, Prince Hassan is expected to outline Jordan's policies on the regional and international levels and His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Rifai to visit Tunisia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai will pay an official visit to Tunisia in June, a report in the local Arabic daily Al Rai said on Friday.

During the visit, Mr. Rifai will hold talks with his Tunisian counterpart Rashed Sfar on means of bolstering their bilateral relations. He is expected to discuss the political situation in the region.

Preparations for trade fair under way

Preparations are going ahead for organising a Jordanian trade fair in Tunis in the coming month.

Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Al Hassan discussed these preparations with the country's prime minister, Rashed Sfar, with whom he also reviewed bilateral cooperation in economic and trade affairs.

Similar talks were held on Thursday between the ambassador and the Tunisian Foreign Minister Abdul Hadi Al Mabrouk.

Abbadi returns after visits to Morocco, S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi Friday returned home at the end of visits to Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

In Morocco, Dr. Abbadi took part in various Islamic meetings organised by the Moroccan Ministry of Awqaf. Also taking part in these meetings were His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco and a number of Muslim scholars and ulamas from different parts of the world.

Dr. Abbadi, in cooperation with his Moroccan counterpart, worked out a draft programme of action aimed at implementing the agreement concluded between Jordan and Morocco. Under the agreement, both countries will cooperate in various Islamic fields, including the publishing of Islamic heritage, exchange of visits by ulamas and intellectuals, exchange of publications, and

holding Islamic meetings and cultural exhibitions.

Both countries will also exchange expertise in the field of waqf legislations and developing waqf property and investing them in the interest of both countries.

In Saudi Arabia, Dr. Abbadi attended meetings of the scientific committee, set up by the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference's (OIC) Fiqh (Islamic law) Academy. The academy was entrusted by the OIC to prepare a plan, designed to present Islamic law in a new and integrated form, in order to facilitate presentation and writing methods.

This is an important project in the field of Islamic law study and ensuring adherence to its provisions, in a manner commensurate with the centrism of Islamic religion and its simplicity and leniency.

Murphy to discuss Mideast conference with Polyakov

(Continued from page 1)

of Israel and by systematically denying exit visas to Soviet Jews who wish to live and work in Israel, clearly does not meet the criteria established to participate in an international peace conference on the Mideast," Mr. Wilson added.

In Cairo, U.S. envoy Vartan Gregorian said the United States and Egypt had made significant progress in talks on ways of achieving Middle East peace, including the issue of an international conference.

Mr. Gregorian said he and Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid covered a wide range of issues at their meeting.

"We have seen some significant progress and we shall continue," he said, adding that the subjects under discussion included an international Middle East peace conference.

President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, Osama Al Baz, said earlier this week that the United States should take a more positive stand on the conference issue.

In New York, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger expressed serious doubts about the wisdom of convening a multi-national Middle East peace conference at the present time.

Dr. Kissinger said that without clear understanding of procedure and agenda such an initiative would not be in Israel's best interests.

Dr. Kissinger, in remarks he described as "worries" and "perplexities" but not his "final pronouncements," cited the brief remaining tenure of a pre-occupied Reagan administration as a main reason a peace conference should not be pursued.

"I have great difficulty understanding the urgency of starting a negotiating process in the last 18 months of an administration when (it) cannot guarantee what its successors will do," Dr. Kissinger told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"If there is anything certain in this world, it is that the conference will deadlock, so that this administration will not be the one that makes the ultimate decisions as to the conduct of the conference," he said.

On Thursday, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering gave the first detailed description by an American official of the proposed conference.

Mr. Pickering told a Hebrew University symposium that Jordan, Egypt and the United States had agreed on major elements of the proposed conference.

The ambassador described the peace talks as:

— "A conference which will invite the parties to form geographical, bilateral committees to negotiate;

— "A conference which cannot impose solutions nor veto agreements reached bilaterally;

— "Face to face negotiations in which Palestinian representation or Palestinian representatives will participate in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation;

— "Negotiations in which the participants will be expected to accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to renounce terrorism and violence;

— "Negotiations in which each participant will enjoy the right to remove himself if the rules or understandings of the particular approach are not observed by the other parties."

Western diplomats said Mr. Pickering's statement was the first by a U.S. official to go into detail on the proposed conference.

"Those elements (of agreement) are backed by the Arab states of the region, Egypt and Jordan... the U.S. as well and we hope the government of Israel will agree to those or similar efforts to get to direct talks," Mr. Pickering said.

Mr. Pickering said Washington was persuaded by Jordan "is serious (but) needs an international framework, mechanism or umbrella or accompaniment or conference to get to the bilateral talks we seek."

Mr. Shamir insists on bilateral talks with Jordan without a conference.



KING ATTENDS FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayers at the Fakhra Mosque and listened to a sermon, presented by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mhailan. In his sermon, Sheikh Mhailan called for unifying the Arab and Muslim worlds through discarding differences and unifying ranks. Sheikh Mhailan praised the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to reduce Arab differences and enhance Arab solidarity.

ity. Sheikh Mhailan added that King Hussein has worked to restore Arab dignity, pride, and to liberate the occupied lands and holy places. Performing Friday prayer with King Hussein were Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of senior officials and a large number of worshippers.

Palestine refugees need more aid, Dudin tells U.N. fact-finding group

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin has called on the international community to help provide more aid to the Palestinian refugees living in the Arab host countries of the Middle East.

He said that the educational and health services provided to the refugees by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees were not sufficient and more efforts should be made to raise funds for the agency's humanitarian work.

The minister was addressing a United Nations information delegation now visiting Jordan in the course of a tour of the Arab region at UNRWA's invitation to study the conditions of the refugees and the agency's services.

The Jordanian government spares no effort in providing help to the refugees, to help UNRWA with its task and continues to provide "care" for the displaced Palestinian people, both those forced by the Israelis to leave their homes in 1948 and following the 1967 war, the minister noted.

At present, UNRWA and the Jordanian government cooperate in providing assistance to the refugees who are being housed in 13 different camps in the Kingdom, Mr. Dudin added.

The minister reviewed the developments of the Palestinian problem and said that the international community which created the state of Israel is responsible also for creating the refugee problem and the subsequent suffering of the displaced people of Palestine who now inhabit these camps.

Mr. Dudin also spoke about the Jordanian government sponsored five-year development plan for the Israeli-held Arab territories. He said that Jordan has not ceased helping the Arab population since the 1967 occupation and the new development plan for the occupied areas is designed to implement projects and provide assistance through a defined programme benefitting the largest possible sector of the population.

Mr. Dudin also spoke about Jordan's peace efforts and the country's call for convening an international peace conference to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, the under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, and other ministry officials attended the meeting along with several UNRWA officials.



Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin meets with an UNRWA sponsored fact-finding group, consisting primarily of journalists. The group is conducting a tour of UNRWA refugee camps in the Middle East (Petra photo)

Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, the under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, and other ministry officials attended the meeting along with several UNRWA officials.

Jordan, Kuwait sign accord on technical, economic cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Kuwait have signed and exchanged documents ratifying a bilateral agreement on cooperation in economic, technical and trade affairs reached by the two countries last October.

Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf and Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahu signed and exchanged documents for the agreement which was concluded during a visit to Kuwait by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai accompanied by a large government delegation.

Following the signing of the agreement, Mr. Saqqaf told the Jordan News Agency Petra that the agreement manifests the strong ties between the two countries and their desire to promote bilateral cooperation in trade, economic and technical fields.

The agreement provides for diversifying and increasing the volume of trade between Kuwait and Jordan and the removal of all obstacles to trade, including the exemption from customs duty of agricultural and industrial products from either country.

The two sides agree to encourage the organisation of trade fairs to promote the marketing of products from Kuwait and Jordan in each other's country, to exchange visits by official and unofficial delegations and to provide each other with expertise and information related to the promotion of trade.

According to Mr. Saqqaf, the two sides also agreed on facilitating investments by Jordanian

and Kuwaiti businessmen in the two countries, launching joint ventures, both public and the private, and offering preferential treatment to each other's goods, investments and profits.

The agreement provides for the transfer of profits, capital and interest on capital between the two sides and providing incentives for investment of capital in each other's country.

He said that the agreement has provisions that prohibit nationalisation of each other's property, unless for higher national interest, but with fair compensation.

He said that the two sides agreed to set up a joint committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement, to remove obstacles, and to provide means for promoting bilateral cooperation.

This committee, he added, is expected to meet in Amman shortly to begin implementing the agreement.



Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf and Kuwait's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahu sign and exchange documents for a technical and economic cooperation agreement negotiated by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai in an earlier visit to Kuwait (Petra photo)

Farmer blamed for fire ruining 40 dunum forest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hundreds of forest trees were burnt down in a huge fire at Al Rumman district between Amman and Jerash, according to a report in Friday's edition of Al Rai's Arabic daily.

The report said that the fire, which swept through trees over 40 dunums of land, had started at a poultry farm when one of the farm workers was trying to burn the bodies of dead birds. The strong wind blew the flames to the nearby forest and led to the burning of the trees, but there were no casualties, the report said.

He said that fire fighting teams from Jerash, Baqaa, Zarqa and Amman took part in controlling the fire one hour after it broke out at four in the afternoon.

The newspaper also reported the death of two persons and the injury of three others in a road accident which occurred Thursday on the Zarqa-Mafraq road near the town of Bal'ama. The paper said that a car and a pickup truck collided as they were travelling in opposite directions on the road and the injured were being treated at Mafraq government hospital.

Mabrouk

John Boteler, former TV critic for the Jordan Times, phoned from London yesterday with the good news that his wife, Tessa, gave birth to a 10-lb baby boy on Thursday evening, May 21, 1987.

The couple named their son Jack, both being extra happy that he arrived late enough to be born a Gemini rather than a Taurus (Taurus children are supposed to be more difficult to bring up than Gemini).

Both Tessa and Jack are doing well, and they are expected to leave hospital in a few days. Thousand mabrouks.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Stark's fate and U.S. reaction

WE had hoped that the attack on the U.S. frigate "Stark" and the loss of life of 37 marines would open the eyes of the U.S. administration to the need to do something for ending the Gulf war which has caused the loss of hundreds of thousands of people and untold destruction. We had hoped that the United States would shoulder its responsibility as a superpower and help bring about peace and security in the Gulf region. But unfortunately reactions coming out of Washington indicate that the United States is still turning its back to the Gulf war, and still failing to make any serious moves towards ending the conflict. We have heard U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger's statement in which he said that the Western world is keen on confronting tyranny and ending violence world-wide, and that the U.S. will continue to work towards helping to re-establish security in the Gulf region. But this statement clearly contradicts Washington's supply of arms to the aggressors in the Gulf war and those who are directly responsible for prolonging the conflict. We can hardly understand how Western interests will remain intact as long as the Iran-Iraq war continues to rage in the Gulf area, and being fuelled by the United States and its allies.

Al Dustour: Still hoping

THE friends of Israel in the United States and the Zionist lobby in Washington normally spare no effort in their drive to safeguard the interests of the Jewish state and in marring the image of the Arab Nation. This time these agents have been active in Washington, trying to put pressure on the U.S. administration to abort plans for selling American warplanes to Saudi Arabia. Their pretext now is that Saudi Arabia has failed to prevent the attack on the U.S. frigate Stark by not intercepting Iraqi warplanes on their way to bomb the vessel last Sunday. A group of U.S. senators has submitted a draft resolution to the Senate for banning the shipment of the planes to Saudi Arabia, thus doing service to Israel which they want to remain strong and capable of dominating the Arab region. This is clearly an irresponsible action on the part of the U.S. senators, and points to the fact that they are ignorant of the real situation in the Middle East. The senators submitted their bill despite their full knowledge of the details of the unfortunate event, and despite Iraq's expression of its profound grief over the loss of life and its readiness to offer compensation. The event has clearly offered Israel's friends in the United States a golden opportunity to provide another valuable service to the Jewish state.

Sawt Al Shaab: Tension escalates in Mideast

STATEMENTS on the situation in the Middle East coupled by Israeli and American moves in the region, all point to the unwelcome events that would take place in the region in the coming few days. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Syrian leaders have lately issued warnings against the danger of escalation of tension. These coincided with U.S. navy moves in the eastern Mediterranean and Gulf regions, and Israel's massing of troops near the Lebanese borders. Observers see in these moves indications to dangerous developments which the Middle East region is about to witness. At the same time U.S. information media has been active in reporting repeated resistance activity in southern Lebanon against Israeli forces and bragging about security for the northern occupied Palestinian territories. This is clearly intended to prepare the Israeli public and the world community to accepting a fresh Israeli aggression and a new adventure in Lebanon. Perhaps through such aggression, Israel hopes to destroy all hopes for convening an international Middle East peace conference.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Gorbachev calls for peace

SOVIET leader Mikhail Gorbachev has once again warned against the explosive situation in the Middle East and called on the international community to bring about peace in the region. Gorbachev said there is need for holding an international conference and added there can be no return to Soviet-Israeli relations unless positive steps have been made towards re-establishing a just peace in the Middle East. Gorbachev's statements put an end to Israeli campaigns and propaganda, claiming that the Soviet Union was holding contacts with Israel to re-establish relations with the Jewish state. Gorbachev's call on the international community to help establish peace is directed mostly to the United States in view of Washington's continued support and backing for Israel, and because such policy is regarded as responsible for the delay in achieving an Arab-Israeli settlement. The Soviet leader's reference to the explosive situation is clearly designed to draw the attention of the U.S. administration to the need of intensive efforts to defuse tension in the region. Continued U.S. support for the Israeli aggressors is bound to increase tension and fuel the flaming situation.

Al Dustour: Involving superpowers in Gulf

THE massing of superpower naval forces in the Gulf waters came as a direct result of Iran's escalation of tension and its pursuit of hostilities and war in that region. Iran is trying to involve the superpowers in the Gulf conflict after it had failed by all other means to achieve its dreams through occupying Arab territory or imposing domination over the Gulf region. The involvement of superpowers and probably other forces is also designed by Tehran to cover up for its undecidability in taking steps towards ending the war with Iraq. Such stand is bound to bring in more danger and involve other nations in the conflict. But the superpowers would not allow Iran to fulfil its dreams or achieve its objectives and sooner or later Iran will find itself surrounded by fleets which it cannot confront, and so this escalation of hostilities would defeat its own purpose and render Tehran's efforts futile. Perhaps the presence of superpower fleets could indirectly bring an end to the Gulf conflict which has raged for nearly seven years and caused so much destruction and loss of life. We hope that Tehran will realise that after all it cannot achieve its military dreams in the Gulf and that the chance is open now for taking the course of peace.

View From Amman

Education: Policy proposal II

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

EDUCATION has been the most important force for change for Jordan and indeed for the entire Arab World: A force that has unleashed vast energies thus far untapped. The accomplishment thus far has been admirable and the progress in material quantitative terms has been more than impressive. We can assert with some confidence that our societies, once pastoral and peasant societies, have changed positively and may now be ready for the next stage of development. A stage that is to be anticipated with confidence and not feared as an unknown. A stage we need to prepare for with much love and care for what we are talking about is not only the future of our youth but our national survival as well. That is why the policy or policies which we must pursue should be flexible enough and principled enough to withstand the painful changes we must undergo, or at least watch our youth undergo. Change almost always involves pain and we must prepare for that. It is like leaving a fine old house in which one grew up, leaving behind the comfort, the familiar rooms, the pleasant surroundings. In the back of our mind we must remember that we either change or perish.

The policy we seek should be based on the following criteria (in addition to those mentioned in my article of May 16, 1987): First, it must accommodate useful ideas, tools and data from whatever source they may originate. There is nothing wrong with being eclectic, if the choice is studied and refined. Education should not be ideologically motivated but should rather closely relate to life. It should teach desirable social values: The values of time and space, respect for others' opinions, respect for manual as well as mental labour... etc. This it should relate the school to the world around it and the appropriate technology for that world. To instill a true

respect for labour and the idea that creation is not necessarily confined to abstract thought. In short, it should be man and material centred without necessarily abandoning spiritual values.

Second, it should relate the school to the universe of knowledge and science. The modern Western world and the coming world of the twenty-first century witness new revolutions in knowledge almost on a daily basis. It is here that two ancillary criteria must be emphasised: a) We should teach the how as much as we teach the why, if not more. b) We should develop the capacity for self-education on a life-time basis. If our youth are to be asked to explore and exploit the ever unfolding universe of things and ideas, they must be equipped with the ability for self-education.

Third, the value of the democratic and liberal exchange of ideas should be emphasised. Though some may think we are injecting a political factor into an otherwise purely educational matter, nothing is further from the truth. As our experience and the experience of many other nations have demonstrated, no genuine progress can take place — though change may occur — without democratic upbringing. Innovation, technological advances, and creativity cannot and will not happen in the absence of a true liberal and democratic climate. Without participation there is no civic responsibility. We simply cannot out-pace ourselves or create while denied the right to be consulted, the right to constructively criticise and the right to explore and discuss every subject under the sun. The mind of a youth must be allowed to roam and wander so it can appreciate and compare. Religion, as the experience in most Western nations has shown, has not suffered, and in fact the reverse has occurred. Even the discussion of the concept of the death of God — which

incidentally, this writer does not subscribe to — a concept advanced by the German philosopher, Nietzsche, has had the effect of shifting out the true believers from the bigots. Surely we need not go so far or so fast in a short time but the point is to free the mind from the shackles of taboos and the fear of the unknown.

Fourth, all of this needs trained teachers who will be partners and helpers in this process of mind development and not simply symbols of authority. Teachers should participate with their students in team projects within the classroom and extra curricular ones as well. They should talk to their students not at them and should help develop in them the type of self confidence and self reliance necessary for their proper development. Thus far most of our teachers are symbols of authority from whom our youth distance themselves as far as possible. The school as an ordeal to be endured must change to a vehicle that makes the process of growing up more pleasant. To accomplish this, the democratic climate we spoke of must be created early otherwise our youth will continue to view the school as they view the society at large, as something not their own, something to be feared even hated; to which they are not participants but onlookers.

We in Jordan and indeed throughout the Arab World have made great strides. Education is democratic in that it is compulsory up to a certain age level but it is not democratic in spirit, not as of now. To at least maintain the present gap that already exists between us and the West, including the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if not to catch up, we must adopt such policies otherwise we will surely be out of the time frame of the future.

U.S. policy in the Gulf aims at preventing Soviet influence and ending Iran-Iraq war

From USA

WASHINGTON — "The United States is actively engaged" in trying to end the Iran-Iraq war, the State Department's top Mideast officer informed a congressional panel.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who heads the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, told the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East May 19 that the United States is now engaged in consultations at the United Nations Security Council to extend the authority of a United Nations resolution to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Murphy, returning from a seven-nation Mideast tour last week, reported that in the countries he visited he found that the U.S. "determination to maintain a position of strength" in the region was favourably received, without exception.

Murphy said that for decades the United States has been working to prevent the growth of Soviet influence in the Gulf. "We do not want the Soviet Union to obtain a strategic position from which it could threaten vital free-world interests in the region," he stated, adding that the arrangement with Kuwait would foster that U.S. policy goal.

"For the past year Iran has been using a combination of military action, attacks on Gulf shipping and terrorism to intimidate the Gulf states not involved in the war," the assistant secretary said for the past year Iran had attempted to divide the Gulf states one from the other and if it were successful in its intimidation of Kuwait, successive Gulf states would be targeted in like manner. By supporting defensive efforts of the moderate Gulf states, Murphy said, the U.S. "enables them to defend the interests we share in the Gulf and reduces the prospects for closer ties with the Soviet Union as well as any inclination to accommodate Iranian hegemony."

Following is the text of Murphy's prepared statement to the subcommittee:

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with you today to discuss the Administration's policy toward the continuing war between Iran and Iraq and toward problems related to international shipping in the Gulf.

Our meeting takes place against the background of the attack by Iraqi aircraft on the USS Stark Sunday with tragic loss of life. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of those brave American sailors who died or were injured in the attack. We greatly appreciate the assistance provided by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in the rescue and evacuation operation.

Yesterday morning the President expressed his concern and anger over Sunday's tragedy in the Gulf and noted that we have protested the unprovoked attack in the strongest terms to the government of Iraq. Yesterday afternoon the President of Iraq apologised for the unintended attack and expressed his deepest regrets and profound condolences. We have agreed to an immediate joint investigation of the incident to avoid any future mistakes.

This Administration, like its predecessors, regards the Gulf as an area of major interest to the

United States and is committed to maintaining the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. Consistent with our national heritage, it attaches great importance to the principle of freedom of navigation.

The Administration is also firmly committed as a matter of national policy to support the individual and collective self-defence of the Arab Gulf States. These long-standing U.S. undertakings flow from the strategic, economic and political importance of the region to us.

U.S. policies toward the Gulf war

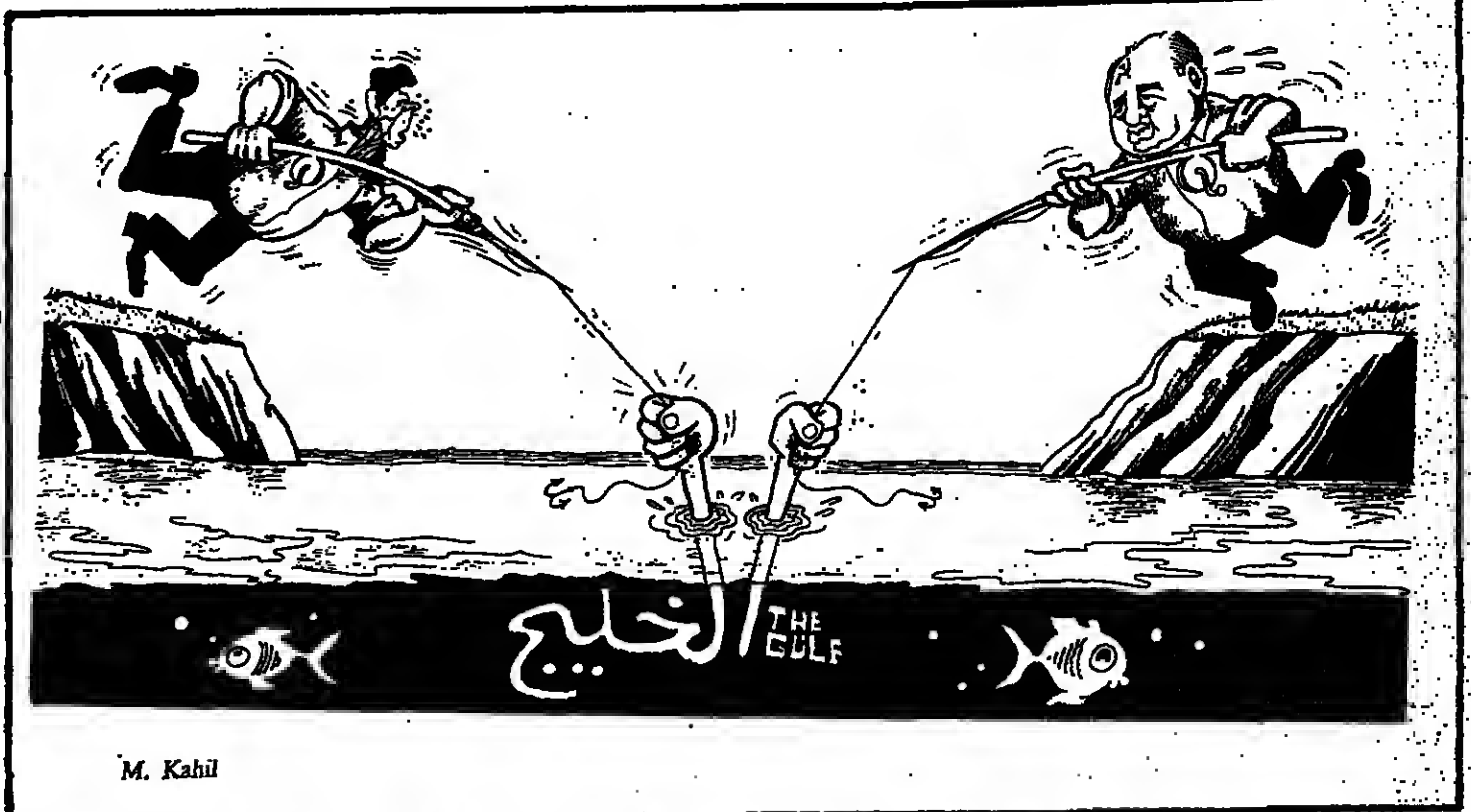
Over the past three months the president has reaffirmed the direction of our long-term policy. Given the increasing dangers in the war with its accompanying violence in the Gulf, we have taken a series of specific decisions designed to ensure our strategic position in the Gulf and reassert the fundamental U.S. stabilising role. Frankly in the light of the Iran-contra revelations, we had found that the coherence and seriousness of U.S. policy in the Gulf was being questioned along with our reliability and staying power. We wanted to be sure the countries with which we have friendly relations — Iraq and GCC states — as well as the Soviet Union and Iran understood the firmness of our commitments.

On January 23 and again on February 25 President Reagan issued statements reiterating our commitment to the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz and U.S. support for the self-defence effort of the Gulf states. He also endorsed Operation Stanch, our effort to reduce the flow of weapons from others to Iran. While neutral toward the Iran-Iraq war, the U.S. government views the continuation of this conflict, as well as its potential expansion, as a direct threat to our interests. We are working intensively for the earliest possible end to the conflict, with the territorial integrity and independence of both sides intact. As the president asserted in his February 25 statement on the war, we believe that "the time to act on this dangerous and destructive war is now." He urged an intensified international effort to seek an end to the war and we have taken a lead in U.N. Security Council (UNSC) consultations to achieve the aim. As we announced May 7 the U.S. is "ready in principle to support the application of appropriate enforcement measures against either party which refuses to cooperate with formal UNSC efforts to end the war."

Shipping problems in Gulf

In addition to the inherent tragedy and suffering in Iraq and Iran, as the fighting drags on, with mounting casualties and drains on the economies of these two nations, so grows the threat of the war spilling over to nearby friendly states in the Gulf. The fresh threats to international shipping are one example of such spillover effect.

In the past eighteen months attacks on neutral shipping passing through the Strait of Hormuz have increased in intensity. A total of nearly 100 vessels were hit by Iran and Iraq in 1986; in



the first three months of this year, some 30 ships were attacked, including a Soviet merchant ship. Since the first of May Iran has attacked 5 ships of non-belligerent countries, virtually all in commerce with Kuwait. Attacks now occur at night as well as day, by sea as well as air, by small boats armed with light weapons as well as by helicopters launched from Iranian warships. While Iran has yet to sink a ship, most of those attacked have suffered damage, some seriously, and innocent lives have been lost.

The May 17 attack on the USS Stark was the first attack on a U.S. warship in the war. This tragic accident gives emphasis to our caution to both belligerents that the war in the Gulf could lead to mistakes and miscalculations; it must be ended.

The recent Chinese delivery to and testing by Iran of Chinese Silk worm anti-ship missiles at the Strait of Hormuz presents a potentially serious threat to U.S. and other shipping. With their 85 km range and 1100 pound warhead, these missiles can span the Strait at its narrowest point and represent for the first time a realistic Iranian capability to sink large oil tankers. Whatever Iran's motivation for procuring such threatening missiles, their presence gives Iran the ability both to intimidate the Gulf states and Gulf shipping and to cause a real or de facto closure of the Strait. The Chinese decision to sell such weaponry to Iran is most unwelcome and disturbing. We have made clear to both Iraq and China the seriousness with which we consider the Silk worm threat. Other concerned governments have done the same. It is our hope that a sustained international diplomatic campaign will convince Iran not to use the Silk worms.

For the past year Iran has been using a combination of military action, attacks on Gulf shipping and terrorism, as well as shrewd diplomacy, to intimidate the Gulf states not involved in the war. It has tried to impress upon Gulf states the hopelessness of their looking to the U.S. for help and to divide the Gulf states one from the other.

Since last summer, Kuwait has been a particular target of Iranian threats. While not a belligerent, Kuwait's size and location make it highly vulnerable to intimidation. The Iranian regime has inspired terrorist and sabotage incidents within Kuwait, fired missiles on Kuwaiti territory on the eve of the January Islamic summit, and attacked over 24 vessels serving Kuwaiti ports since last September. The most recent examples of the active intimidation efforts were the explosion at the TWA office in Kuwait city May 11 which killed one employee. Over the last three years, Iranian

influenced groups have attempted a series of bombings and attacks, including on the ruler of Kuwait himself, in an attempt to liberate terrorists being held in Kuwait, who were convicted of bombing the U.S. and French embassies.

Several months ago Kuwait and other GCC states expressed to us their concern about the continuing attacks by Iran on tankers. Kuwait asked for our assistance, fearing potential damage to its economic lifeline. Consistent with long-standing U.S. commitment to the flow of oil through the Gulf and the importance we attach to the freedom of navigation in international waters as well as our determination to assist our friends in the Gulf, the president decided that the United States would help in the protection of Kuwaiti tankers. In the context of these developments, Kuwait asked to register a number of its tanker fleet under the U.S. flag. We informed Kuwait that if the vessels in question met ownership and other technical requirements under U.S. laws and regulations, they could be registered under the U.S. flag. This is in accordance with our established position on qualifications for U.S. flag registration of commercial vessels in general. We also informed the Kuwaitis that by virtue of the fact that these vessels would fly the American flag, they would receive the U.S. Navy protection given any U.S. flag vessel transiting the Gulf. The U.S. Navy has always had the mission to provide appropriate protection for U.S. commercial shipping world-wide within the limits of available resources and consistent with international law.

We view the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers in the U.S. as an unusual measure to meet an extraordinary situation. It would not however set a precedent for the normal conduct of commercial shipping or affect the broad interests of the U.S. maritime industry. U.S. flagging procedures minimally require that only the captain of each vessel be a U.S. citizen. Because these vessels will not be calling at U.S. ports, there is no requirement that they carry U.S. seamen or other U.S. crewmembers. These new U.S. flag vessels will be sailing in areas where other U.S. flag vessels have hitherto generally not frequented since the war began.

To date, Iran has been careful to avoid confrontations with U.S. flag vessels when U.S. Navy vessels have been in the vicinity. U.S. Military Sealift Command and other commercial U.S. flag vessels have transited the Gulf each month under U.S. Navy escort without incident. We believe that our naval presence will continue to have this deterrent

effect. Iran lacks the sophisticated aircraft and weaponry used by Iraq in the mistaken attack on the USS Stark, in the aftermath of which Iraq has made clear it has no hostile intentions.

Moreover, we will make sure in advance that Iran knows which ships have been reflagged and are under U.S. protection.

Our response to Kuwait demonstrates our resolve to protect our interests and those of our friends in the region, and it has been warmly welcomed by those governments with which we have had traditionally close ties. Our goal is to deter not provoke; we believe this is understood by the parties in the region — including Iran. We will pursue our programme steadily and with determination.

Our judgment is that, in light of all the surrounding circum-

stances, the protection accorded by U.S. naval vessels to these U.S. flag tankers transiting international waters or straits does not constitute introduction of our armed forces into a situation where "imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated."

The War Powers Resolution accordingly is not implicated by our actions. On the contrary, our actions are such as to make it clear that any prospect of hostilities is neither imminent nor clearly indicated. I repeat that our intention is to deter, not provoke, further military action. We will, however, keep the situation under careful review — particularly in light of the May 17 attack on the USS Stark — and keep Congress closely informed.

Kuwait has also discussed with other maritime powers commercial charter arrangements in the

(Continued on page 5)

LETTERS

Unfair coverage

To the Editor:

I, as a regular reader of most newspapers from the Gulf and Jordan, was indeed surprised to find the massive coverage they gave to Sunday's Iraqi missile attack on the USS Stark. Most newspapers led with the story, many with superlarge headlines and one or more photographs.

While I do not dispute the newsworthiness of an incident in which an Iraqi missile hits an American warship and kills 28 (that was the death toll on Monday, if you remember), I would like to raise a simple question: Did any of these newspapers give any consideration to the level of coverage that the U.S. information media give to news involving Arab lives? For instance, were the 1982 massacres of hundreds of people at the Sabra and Shatila camps given the proper coverage they deserved, as a human interest story if not as underlining the Israeli hands behind it? The 1985 Israeli air attack on Tunis which killed more than 70 people? Or the recent series of systematic Israeli bombings of Palestinian camps in South Lebanon killing more than 60 people since the beginning of this year? Above all, what about the thousands of lives lost in the Iran-Iraq war, an offshoot of which was the attack on the Stark? With the exception of a very small number of newspapers, most of the U.S. information media chose to ignore these news items. If anything, some newspapers chose to tuck them away in an obscure corner in an inside page.

Of course, one has to submit that American newspapers are more concerned with news involving American lives than Israeli attacks on Arabs (though not the vice-versa) or the dragging war in the Gulf. By the same token, why don't we in the Arab World adopt the same parameters while dealing with Americans? For instance, there was indeed an Israeli attack on the Mieh Mieh camp in South Lebanon on Monday; the raid killed one Arab and wounded several, and it was the latest in a series of Israeli bombings of Palestinian camps. Most newspapers, including the Jordan Times, did indeed carry the item on page 1 but with relegated importance. I would say that if the situation was to be reversed — i.e. if 28 Arabs were killed in the Israeli raid, and only one American was killed in the attack on the Stark — the choice of American newspapers would still have been the same; lead with the death of the American and assign the other story to an inside page. To say the least, one American life is worth more than 100 Arab lives as far as the U.S. information media are concerned, one cannot exactly blame them for it since such a nationalist attitude is only natural in any part of the world, except perhaps, as it has emerged, in the Arab World.

Issa Khairallah
Amman



Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

Gorbachev gives insight into his personal world

By Helen Womack
— Reuters

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev gave a glimpse of his personal world in a newspaper interview published Wednesday, saying his main weakness was his interest in a wide variety of subjects.

Showing the modesty he has espoused as the proper style for a Kremlin leader, Gorbachev told the Italian Communist Party newspaper *L'Unita* that any popularity he had gained in the West was not for himself as a "concrete person" but for his policies to revitalize Soviet society and achieve disarmament.

But, in answer to an appeal to satisfy Western curiosity about himself, he described his intellectual interests in the interview, published in the Communist Party daily *Pravda*.

"I have always held that my 'weakness' is that I have always shown interest in many things in various fields," he said, adding that he had studied law after intending to enroll as a physics student.

In his youth, he also liked literature and could still remember by heart poetry he learned at school, although in his mature years his interest had turned more to economics.

"One might assert that people who concentrate on some specific field achieve much in life. But still people with a broad outlook are more 'to my liking,'" Gorbachev said.

The 56-year-old Kremlin leader also disclosed that he had no free time since launching his campaign to make Soviet society more disciplined and democratic. This, he said, demanded his involvement in all aspects of life and many contacts with people.

"Perhaps such a way of life cannot be described as quite normal but it is dictated by the time, by a situation resembling revolutionary periods when one must give oneself entirely, regardless of anything," he said.

Gorbachev said the country had "ripened for changes" over a number of years, adding that he and other officials who had "passed through a big school of practical work in the provinces" had

recognised that the nation was stagnating under the late President Leonid Brezhnev.

He stressed this was a collective realisation.

"I disagree with what is sometimes said that the course towards the renewal of socialism is personally associated with the name of Gorbachev..."

"If there were no Gorbachev, there would have been someone else," he said.

The Kremlin leader also said he attached great importance to his trips around the country, where some people expressed anxiety that reforms might not be carried through to the end.

This, he said, had happened in the past, but he promised to hold the new course. He said he faced no "political opposition" but only the problem that many people were still trapped in old attitudes.

Stressing his personal commitment to the ideas of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet state, Gorbachev appeared to express faith in the prospect that living conditions would be equal for all when Communism was achieved.

He said that in the meantime Socialism demanded "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his work" and he denounced what he called recent "levelling tendencies" which he said had encouraged the lazy and had stifled initiative.

Those who worked well would be rewarded and the state could grant privileges to individuals "in the interests of developing the whole of society," he said.

But privileges "which are not established by the state but which some established for themselves by virtue of their position" were unacceptable, he said.

Since coming to power in March 1985, Gorbachev has removed hundreds of corrupt officials, who thrived under Brezhnev and urged openness and justice in society.

But he made clear in the interview that the Soviet Union was not about to turn into a Western democracy. "The point at issue is not a break-up of our political system but fuller and more effective use of its potential," he said.

Unemployment becoming way of life in England

By Cotten Timberlake
The Associated Press

MIDDLESBROUGH, England — Cleveland County, which has England's highest unemployment rate, does not belong to the manicured British isles of picture postcards.

Thousands of jobs have disappeared, and an industrial stink fills the air around 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares) of derelict factories.

The joblessness — 20.8 per cent of the county's residents are unemployed — has marred more than the external landscape. It has damaged the internal one.

"I always tend to feel scruffy,

even when I'm not," said Susan Brooks, 25, who is unemployed. "It makes me feel degraded."

The opposition Labour Party will do its utmost before the June 11 general election to make unemployment an issue. Since conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, the number of unemployed Britons has more than doubled to 3.02 million people, or 10.9 per cent of the work force.

But Labour may find it hard to capitalise on what is considered the greatest failure of Mrs. Thatcher, who is seeking an unprecedented third straight term. The polls show the incumbent conservatives ahead in the race to

control the 650-seat parliament. Many of the jobless have become resigned to their plight. The problem is so large and entrenched that it seems impervious to political solutions.

Meanwhile, those who do have work — but not necessarily job security — are the majority and are better off economically.

"Unemployment has not become a political crisis and there's been no wide-scale social unrest," said Ken Roberts, a sociologist. "Ten years ago people would not have believed it possible."

Cleveland county, 320 kilometres north of London on the coast, was booming in the 1960s and early 70s. Unemployment stood at 5 per cent. There was steelmaking, shipbuilding and the manufacturing of chemicals and equipment for North Sea oil rigs.

Then came overcapacity. Technology advanced quickly, requiring fewer workers and making skills obsolete. In addition, the country's dependence on a small number of large companies made it particularly vulnerable to industry changes.

To top it off, Mrs. Thatcher clamped down on public spending in the early 1980s to keep inflation under control.

"It took us a long time to recognise and it's now being recognised that there is long-term unemployment," said Bryan Hanson, the political leader of the labour-dominated county. "Some people will never have a job in their whole life."

Bruce Stevenson, the county's chief executive, said: "We are now for the first time organising our services to support the unemployed on a permanent basis."

It has nothing to do with laziness, he said.

"This is an area that has always worked hard. It's simply the lack of opportunity. That's causing tremendous stress," Stevenson said.

The unemployment problem has affected the entire area. The Cleveland County Council has become the largest employer, with 20,000 of the 580,000 residents on its payroll.

Petty crime is up. Loan sharks go about knocking on doors. Homes are difficult to sell. Families break apart. Residents suffer

from bad nutrition. For those who can find work, wages are down, perhaps because they're willing to work for less.

Robin Treacher, a spokesman for the council, explained the industrial stink in the air.

"There are a lot of people who believe ... we have a greater leniency toward accepting industry that wouldn't be accepted in other parts of the country," he said.

Even though the stigma of being jobless is not severe in Britain, the unemployed feel worthless and unwanted in society, experts say.

Twenty per cent of county residents eligible for unemployment benefits don't claim them, officials estimate.

Nationwide, annual unemployment benefit payments have soared 7.35 billion pounds (\$12.3 billion) from 1.5 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion) in 1979.

Tom Smith, a 33-year-old unemployed mechanical fitter, is trying to support a wife and three children on benefits of 75 pounds (\$125 dollars) a week.

Asked why he had children

when he wouldn't be able to afford to raise them, Smith replied: "If you have no children and it's just the two of you, what do you have to look forward to?"

Despite the gloomy prospects for Cleveland County youths, student examination results rank among the best in Britain. Still, only one of 10 recent graduates found a full-time job.

"Nobody knows how to run a society in which in 10 years time a substantial number of young people will have never worked," Stevenson said.

Opposition politicians and experts have called for solutions such as an increase in public spending, training programmes, shortening the work week, encouraging entrepreneurship and migration. The county, meanwhile, works day-to-day to alleviate the worst of its problems.

"The people in Cleveland are not the kind of people that riot," Smith said. But Hanson, the political leader, described it differently.

"We have a very slow riot taking place all the time."

Prison ship to greet immigrants to Britain

By Michael Stott
— Reuters

HARWICH, England — Suspected illegal immigrants to Britain face detention aboard a disused car ferry, a move which has incensed civil rights groups and invited comparison with prison hulks used in past centuries.

The Home Office (interior ministry) said it planned to turn a former passenger ferry into a detention centre for aliens refused entry to Britain while their cases are considered.

Some will be held for a week or less, others for months, immigrant welfare organisations labelled the planned accommodation as unfit even for convicted criminals.

The 252-berth Earl William stands moored to a disused rail ferry docking facility in Harwich, an east coast English port, as workers ready it for the arrival of the first detainees by the end of May.

Steel fences capped with barbed wire and heavily padlocked gates seal off the area around the ship. Floodlights are there to illuminate the ship and the dock-side at night.

The smell of diesel fumes and stale cigarette smoke permeates the vessel, which last saw service carrying passengers and cars between the south English coast and the Channel Islands, near northern France.

Detainees are to sleep in cabins measuring about five metres by three metres. Bunks fold down from the walls to provide up to four beds per cabin; but the Home Office said it did not expect the ship to be used to capacity.

A Home Office spokesman said standards on board were "certainly equivalent to our other detention centres, and probably represented a higher standard of comfort."

But Anne Owens, general secretary of the civil rights group the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants told Reuters: "This is a form of detention not even used for convicted criminals."

"Yet we are dealing with people who have mostly committed no crime. They have no right of bail and are subject to indefinite and unlimited detention."

Prison ships were first used by

Britain in the 1780s, when convicts were incarcerated on "hulks" — disused ships anchored off the English coast. The system was phased out in the mid-19th century on humanitarian grounds.

Owens said the consequences of detention were especially dire for refugees seeking asylum in Britain to flee persecution at home.

"We know of two cases of attempted suicide, and one recent case where a Ugandan did actually commit suicide in Pentonville Prison," she said.

The British Refugee Council, a registered charity, said the use of a ferry would be "particularly inhumane," given the long periods of detention often experienced by asylum-seekers.

Council director Martin Barber said he deplored the "unnecessary and increasing use of detention for asylum-seekers," where they were held. The council said it had heard of six suicide attempts by asylum-seekers this year.

A Home Office official confirmed the Ugandan's death and said several attempts at suicide had been recorded among detainees in recent years, though no other deaths had resulted.

The ferry, built in 1964, still retains signs of its more conventional role. A sign remains above a kiosk on one of the lower decks reading "Passport Office."

The irony will not be lost on the detainees. They will all be there because their passports and visas were not in order.

Some will be men and women initially refused leave to enter the country while their cases are under review. They will include political refugees and asylum-seekers.

Others will be illegal immigrants picked up inside Britain and awaiting deportation.

The ship is owned by Sealink, a private British ferry operator, who are leasing it to the Home Office for an initial three months, with the possibility of extension. A Sealink representative said security would be provided by 30 men from a private security firm, some living on board.

A Home Office spokesman said on daily regime would operate on the ship, and detainees would be free to move around as they pleased. A television lounge would be fitted out on board, with other recreation facilities installed on the cavernous car decks.

He said use of the ferry was made necessary by continuing pressure on existing detention facilities. Around 300 detainees are being held in Britain at present while the Home Office investigates their cases.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — May 23, 1987

8:30 Dad's Army
War Dance

9:00 Classical Music

10:20 Feature Film
Murder That Wouldn't Die

Starring:
William Conrad
Lane Cudde

In 1942 four army officers raped the wife of another American army officer. They said officers were aware of the fact that the woman has some link with a high ranking army officer. The incident was seen by a journalist, who started to threaten the rapists and blackmail them.

Sun. — May 24, 1987

8:30 Growing Pains

9:10 Doc. — On The Wheel

10:20 Miss Marple
Murder in the Vicarage

The sleepy little village of St. Mary Mead, which once before has been thrown into a state of shock by the affair of *The Body in the Library*, is again the scene of a horrifying murder. This time the drama begins when Miss Marple, tending her garden one fine April morning, is startled to hear the Reverend Clement, the mild-natured vicar of St. Mary's, swearing in anger. The subject of his wrath, one Colonel Lucius Protheroe, does not surprise her, however, for the Colonel is not a popular man. Miss Marple herself dislikes him intensely, as do most of the inhabitants of the village.

Mon. — May 25, 1987

8:30 Three Up, Two Down

The arrival of a new-born baby tends to disrupt the lives of the parents, but Nick and Angie's first-born changes the lives of his grandparents, too. In this new comedy series, Michael Elphick, who starred in the critically acclaimed *Private Schulz*, plays

Sam, Nick's down-to-earth father, and Angela Thorne, who made a memorable Mrs. Thatcher in the stage play *Anyone for Dennis*, and played Marjorie in BBC Television's *The Manor*. Born, takes the role of Daphne, Angie's mother. The two proud grandparents are from very different social backgrounds, and have met only once before — at Nick and Angie's wedding. The encounter left them both with no desire ever to meet again — but with the arrival of a grandson, they are destined to be brought uncomfortably together.

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Fair Stood the Wind for France

Franklin's health is greatly improved and his frustrations and sense of futility are gradually overcome as he and Francois become more closely involved. But more trouble is on the way when local resistance activity brings reprisals from the Germans.

Tue. — May 26, 1987

8:30 You Again

9:10 Strong Medicine

Arthur Hailey's best-seller comes to life in this dramatic mini-series. One woman fights against industry corruption with the only weapon she has — the truth.

Starring:
Ben Cross,
Patrick Duffy
Pamela Sue Martin

10:20 The Unknown War

11:10 Bergerac
A Perfect Recapture

Wed. — May 27, 1987

8:30 Dialogue with Muslim Intellectuals

9:10 Doc. — In Search of the Trojan War
The Fall of Troy

With the evidence from the pre-



The Rebels — Wednesday at 10:20

ceding programmes in the series. Michael Wood links the archaeological, historical and literary evidence to suggest what may have happened. Looking at the upheavals of this troubled period, and relating its dating to the archaeology of Troy, he asks some open questions about the old riddle of the Trojan War, and comes up with answers which raise an intriguing new possibility concerning the true identity of the doomed city of legend.

10:20 The Rebels

Thur. — May 28, 1987

8:30 Me and My Girl

9:10 The Challenge

It is the night of the famous Eve Cup Ball — an occasion packed with tension for the lead players. The New York Yacht Club have despatched a representative to Holland in an attempt to coerce

the Dutch into calling the Yacht Basin as the legal designer rather than Laxen. The head of the Basin stands firm, with the reprimand to the Club representative, "Who designs the house, the architect or the draftsman?"

10:20 Feature Film
Golden Gate Murders

Starring:
David Jansen
Susan York

Fri. — May 29, 1987

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Peter The Great

Peter resolves to visit a number of Western countries and offers to conclude alliance with them that would realise his goals, and seeks their assistance for ship building.

U.S. policy in the Gulf aims at preventing Soviet influence, ending Iran-Iraq war

(Continued from page 4)

Interest of deterring further Iranian attacks on its vessels. We understand that Kuwait broached this issue with all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and has entered into an agreement with the Soviet Union to charter three long-haul Soviet-flag vessels to transport some of its oil out of the Gulf.

A constant of U.S. policy has for decades been U.S. determination to prevent enhanced Soviet influence and presence in the Gulf. We do not want the Soviet Union to obtain a strategic position from which it could threaten vital free-world interests in the region. We believe our arrangement with Kuwait will limit Soviet advances to the region; they would have welcomed the opportunity to replace us, and used this position to try to expand further their role in the Gulf. We understand that their commercial charter arrangement for long-haul charters out of the Gulf does not necessitate an increase in the Soviet naval presence or establishment of facilities in the Gulf. This we would not welcome and have made our position clear.

I want to be frank to acknowledge, however, that the disturbing trend in the war — its spread in geographic terms and its increasing impact on third parties like Kuwait — creates the circumstances in which the Soviets may find more opportunities to insert themselves. The USSR plays a fundamentally different role in the Gulf and is viewed by Iran as directly threatening to Tehran. Aside from the long

northern border, Soviets occupy Afghanistan to Iran's east and are Iraq's primary source of arms. The unescorted Soviet ship recently attacked had in the past carried arms to Iraq. The Soviets sent warships into the Gulf for the first time last fall after Iran boarded and searched a Soviet arms carrying vessel. Iran should ponder this development as it maintains its intransigent war policy. We certainly believe the Soviet actions in the Gulf and their attempts to enhance their presence there influence the need to bring this war to an end.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the administration is following a clear and consistent set of policies in support of our national interests in the Gulf. Our policies are carefully conceived — and they focus on steps needed to end the war. They are calm and steady in purpose, not provocative in intent; they should help deter Iranian miscalculations and actions that would require a strong response. By supporting the defensive efforts of the moderate Gulf states, including the sale of appropriate defensive arms, we help to enable them to defend the interests we share in the Gulf and to reduce the prospects for closer ties with the Soviet Union as well as any inclination to accommodate Iranian hegemony.

The reaction of the Gulf states has been extremely favourable — without exception. In my talks last week in the area they all welcomed the U.S. determina-

tion to maintain a position of strength and support in the region. An Arab League delegation visited the U.S. two weeks ago and was encouraged by assurances from the secretary and president that the U.S. would work hard for a new and effective U.N. resolution to end the war. The Gulf states hope our efforts will continue, enabling them to resist Iranian and Soviet pressure. They do not see our actions as provocative or dangerous.

We want the Congress to be fully aware of what we are doing. That is why we provided in March and April a number of briefings on our Gulf policy and what we intend to do to help Kuwait, including briefings to HFAC and SFRC. That is why the president has, on several occasions, issued public statements explaining our policy. We have a coherent and effective policy in the Gulf region. We seek your support and that of the U.S. public for our efforts. We believe it is important for the U.S. to work more actively to end the Iran-Iraq war, to be prepared to defend the principle of the free flow of oil and meet our long standing commitment to assist the Gulf Arab states in their self-defence and to continue to work to constrain Soviet designs. We will advise Congress on the evolution of our discussions with Kuwait and the continuing security situation.

With me are representatives of the State Department's Legal Office, the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard. We will be happy to respond to your questions.

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Chinese excel in badminton

PEKING (R) — China's powerful badminton squad predictably dominated quarter-finals day at the world championships Friday by claiming six of the eight semifinal places in the two singles events.

Only number one seed Morten Frost of Denmark and second seeded Ick Sugiarto of Indonesia interrupted China's run of victories with relatively comfortable wins in their respective quarter-final matches.

But the women's singles semifinals will both be all-Chinese affairs. Zheng Yuli, Gu Jiaming and Han Aiping enjoyed straightforward victories and only top seeded Li Lingwei was extended to three games — by compatriot and joint fifth seed Shi Wen, whom she beat 11-12, 11-6, 11-8.

The Peking crowd can now look forward to the match they have been awaiting since the start of the championships, a semifinal clash between Frost and joint third seed Zhao Jianhua.

The 29-year-old Dane overpowered Malaysian teenager Rashid Sidek 15-7, 15-5, while Zhao beat

compatriot Zhang Qingwu 15-4, 15-2.

Left-hander Zhao has been in brilliant form throughout all four rounds and is widely tipped by his fellow-players as the most likely successor to countryman Han Jian, who beat Frost in Calgary two years ago.

"I'll need all the luck I can get against Zhao," was how the Dane rated his chances of reaching the final.

Ick, champion in Copenhagen in 1983, had his toughest match yet against joint fifth seed Xiong Guohao, eventually beating the Chinese 15-7, 15-13 though still complaining of an ankle injury.

Ick said his persistent right ankle injury may ruin his quest for a second world title.

He told reporters his two-month-old injury, sustained in the Scandinavian Open last March,

slowed down his play on Friday and may tell against him in the semifinal.

"I was undecided about coming to Peking and was surprised that I made it to the semifinals," Ick said.

Ick has brought two mass-sues to Peking, including an Indonesian expert in traditional methods of healing for sprains and injuries and receives daily treatment from them.

After winning the first game of his quarter-final easily, the Indonesian went 5-0 down in the second, drew level at 6-6 but held up the match for a few minutes disputing a line call against him.

At 13-13 the service changed five times, but the experienced Indonesian finally found the serves to win the match, turning to the home crowd of about 5,000 and holding his arm high in a clenched fist.

His next opponent is Chinese number one Yang Yang, another left-hander carefully coached to reach a peak at the fifth world championships since 1977.



TAE KWON DO TEAM BACK: Members of the national tae kwon do team, which returned to Amman Wednesday from Helsinki, Finland, are seen with scores of fans and senior sports officials who have received them at the Queen Alia International Airport. The team, which secured the sixth position among 16 participating countries in the world tae kwon do tournament last week, will now resume training for other international tournaments.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Al Wasi wins UAE President's Soccer Cup

ABU DHABI (R) — Dubai's Al Wasi beat Khor Fakkan's Al Khaleej 2-1 Thursday night (halftime 0-0) to win the United Arab Emirates (UAE) President's Cup soccer trophy for the first time. Al Khaleej's Obeid Saeed opened scoring in the 48th minute from a pass by Hassan Abdul Wahhab. Al Wasi equalised in the 52nd minute with a penalty by star striker Fahd Khamis who clinched victory in the 60th minute on a pass from his brother Nasser. Attendance: 5,000.

Brazilian star disciplined for celebrating

DUBLIN (R) — Brazilian world cup star Josimar has been reprimanded by manager Carlos Alberto Silva for a breach of discipline following the 1-1 draw against England at Wembley on Tuesday. The 25-year-old right back is alleged to have gone "on the town" after the game and as a result he has been fined his match bonus. But Josimar may escape further punishment as he is the only right back available for the second match of the team's European tour, against Ireland here on Saturday.

Jamaican runner dies in action

CAPE GIRARDEAU (R) — Jamaican Paul Bryan has collapsed and has died after running in the semifinals of the 1,500 metre race at a collegiate athletics meet here, a hospital spokesman said. The 22-year-old Bryan, a junior at California University of Pennsylvania, collapsed after finishing fifth in the race at Southeast Missouri State University. Bryan crossed the finish line, staggered into the infield then came back on the track and collapsed, witnesses said. Assistant trainer Tim Barron and head trainer Jeff Daniel of Southeast Missouri State administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. But within 30 seconds after first aid efforts were administered, Bryan stopped breathing. Daniel said: "He appeared to be having some kind of seizure activity, but he had a pulse rate and he was breathing. We had a pulse, but we just couldn't hold it." The trainers worked on Bryan for another 10 minutes until an ambulance arrived. An emergency medical team then spent 10 minutes trying to resuscitate the fallen athlete before taking him to Southeast Missouri Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death, a hospital spokesman said.

Johnson says he will not retire if beaten

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (R) — World Boxing Association (WBA) light-heavyweight champion Marvin Johnson will not end his long career if he loses his title to local challenger Leslie Stewart when they meet here Saturday. Johnson, who earned the nickname "Pops" because of his longevity as a professional boxer, has won and lost two world titles during a 14-year, 48-fight ring career. But the 33-year-old has said: "Defeat won't force me to retire. I did not come here to lose. I'm here to retain my title."



Zola Budd

Injury may subside Budd for whole year

LONDON (R) — Zola Budd has given up virtually all hope of running at international level this year because of a nagging injury.

The South African-born athlete who competes for Britain admits: "I have forgotten 1987". Budd said in an interview due to be screened on British Television on Sunday the problem is at the top of her hamstring and could be caused by the fact she is still growing.

She has not competed since the European Championships in Stuttgart last September and has not been able to do any hard training since then.

"It's very frustrating, but at the moment it's more important for me to get well rather than think of racing. I will just have to be patient," Budd said.

"In a way I have forgotten 1987. I would rather think of the Olympics next year."

The world championships (in Rome in August) is almost an unrealistic target because of my lack of training.

"The doctors have told me to take it easy, let the injury recover and settle down before I can do any hard racing again. Nobody is pushing me, it's my decision when I want to race again."

Apartheid controversy threatens to halt title bout

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (R)

The light heavyweight title bout between champion Marvin Johnson and Leslie Stewart was in doubt Thursday because two of the officials have worked in South Africa, the national security ministry said.

Trinidad and Tobago's first world championship boxing match, scheduled for Saturday, became the centre of a political controversy when the government moved to bar the two officials from judging the fight.

The national security ministry said it would not issue work permits to referee Isidro Rodriguez or Judge Jesus Celis, both of Venezuela, who were scheduled to officiate the World Boxing Association (WBA) fight.

Both men worked at a 1985 fight in Sun City prior to the WBA's October 1986 resolution

to ban its boxers and officials from fights in South Africa.

Promoters and managers have said they will appeal the decision. However, they also recognised that the government's position was complicated because the fight was scheduled to take place during a visit here by South African anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Jimmy Cavo, Stewart's manager, said he had been in touch with prime minister A.N.R. Robinson's office twice on Thursday and planned to make a personal appeal to the prime minister Saturday.

He expressed confidence the government will ease its position regarding the two officials.

"I think they should let it slide and I think they will let it slide," Cavo told Reuters.

"After all, Leslie is the greatest hero that's ever hit Trinidad and Tobago," he said.

WBA President Gilberto Mendoza, in a telephone interview from the organisation's headquarters in Maracay, Venezuela, said it would be very difficult to find new officials on such short notice who would be from neutral countries and also have no South African connections.

He estimated that 40-50 per cent of the WBA's officials had worked at one time or another on boxing matches in South Africa.

"We can't erase the past, and the WBA ruling is not retroactive," he said.

The bout between the American Johnson and his local challenger has been the centre of media attention in Trinidad for several weeks.

Milligram to give Stoute 2nd triumph

DUBLIN (R) — Milligram is the

warm favourite to give British trainer Michael Stoute his second Irish 1,000 Guineas in a row now that flying filly, Indian Skimmer has been surprisingly withdrawn from Saturday's race.

Stoute won the Irish Fillies Classic last year with Sonic Lady and Milligram, who was runner-up to French champion Miesque in the Newmarket 1,000 Guineas, is 6-4 favourite to go one better this time at the Curragh, windswept headquarters of Irish racing.

Jockey Walter Swinburn will also be keen to erase the nightmare of his last classic ride at the Curragh — he finished third on Ajdal in last Saturday's Irish 2,000 Guineas but then forgot to weigh in and was disqualified.

Henry Cecil caused a major surprise, and filled a few bookmakers' satchels with ante-post bets, when he decided Friday that his impressive filly Indian Skimmer would be switched instead to

Paris for Sunday's Prix Saint Alary.

Cecil, concerned about the going at the Curragh, is keen then to take a tilt at Miesque in the Prix De Diane at Chantilly, a superb race in the making which could settle who is this year's champion European filly.

Saturday's race is certainly no walkover for Milligram. Her toughest challenge could come from the Hardy Ian Balding filly Forest Flower who had to miss the newmarket 1,000 Guineas but could be launched on an attacking 1987 campaign.

If she emerges successful on Saturday, Balding may be tempted by the fillies' five pound weight advantage to take on the colts, led by his favourite reference point, in next month's Epsom Derby.

Sixth in the Newmarket 1,000 Guineas was Minstrella but trainer Charlie Nelson is convinced she can do much better at the Curragh if covered up until the last moment.

Mansell, Senna squabble after car crash

SYDNEY (R) — British motor racing driver Nigel Mansell has said there would have been a mess on the floor if he had got his hands on Brazilian Ayrton Senna after their cars tangled during the Belgian Grand Prix last Sunday.

Mansell gave his version of the events in Belgium, which led to both drivers bailing to retire from the race, in a syndicated column in the Australian Daily Telegraph.

The Briton said that after leaving a left-handed bend early in the race, Senna appeared to miss a gear. Mansell flicked left, believing Senna had let him through.

As he approached the next right-hander, Mansell said he looked in his mirror and saw Senna behind him on his right, apparently about to let Brazilian Nelson Piquet through as well.

"I turned into the corner and the next thing I knew he (Senna) was sliding down the inside."

McEnroe rapped over players' protest

DUESSELDORF, West Ger-

many (R) — Former world number one John McEnroe has been bitterly criticised by tennis officials for his part in a players' refusal to switch to indoor courts after rain interrupted play at the \$750,000 World Team Cup.

More than 6,000 angry fans waited for up to three hours at the Duesseeldorf Ice Stadium while players and officials argued over whether they should play on the specially built clay court there.

The players finally capitulated

when tournament organisers threatened them with disqualification if they refused.

Afterwards tournament director Horst Klosterkemper singled out American McEnroe, Guillermo Vilas of Argentina and Emilio Sanchez of Spain as the players behind the revolt.

The usually mild-mannered Klosterkemper told a news conference he was "very disappointed" by the players' attitude. He said he had offered all spectators half of their money back.

France facing tough times in post-Platini era

PARIS (R) — Testing times await French soccer now that the exit of Michel Platini has closed the most brilliant era in the national team's history.

The break-up of the team created by Michel Hidalgo gathered pace after last year's World Cup finals and French fortunes have already faded. But while Platini was still there — even if he said it was just to lend a hand — the strongest link remained.

That link was severed on Sunday when the French soccer king announced his abdication in Italy, the land of his forebears, after five regal seasons with Juventus Turin.

"We are all sorry but it was inescapable. It's the end of an epoch for French football but also for the French team," said Henri Michel, who took over the national side after Hidalgo led them to their pinnacle as European champions in 1984.

Platini will be 32 next month and Michel, who used to play alongside him for France, has long had to reconcile himself to the fact that somebody else would soon fill the number 10 shirt.

"He's an exceptional player... but one day we'll have to do without him. He's not eternal," Michel said after Platini helped France to a 2-0 victory over Iceland here last month in his 72nd international appearance.

Platini's class still stood out that night in the Parc Des Princesses Stadium, where he had made his debut on March 27, 1976, in

Hidalgo's first match in charge and scored the first of his 41 international goals in a 2-2 draw against Czechoslovakia.

But while adoring fans might wish he would go on playing into his 50's, like England's old wing Maestro Stanley Matthews, Platini preferred to quit the competitive game at the top.

He will now devote his energies to the Michel Platini foundation — launched in February to help rehabilitate young drug addicts, and pursue his television career and other lucrative business interests.

"I have decided to leave football but I can't hide my sadness. The competition, the team, the public, the game, the emotion before going on to the field... I will miss it all but I can't go on because I don't enjoy it anymore," he said.

Platini's abundant gifts as a creator of rare tactical vision and lethal finishing skill won the player and the teams he graced virtually every honour in the game, but raised the expectations of others to levels hard to bear.

"I'm no longer judged on what I do but on what I ought to do, what I must do. I must score goals, be fantastic. That's what's a bit difficult," he told Reuters before the last world cup, where he was to be hampered by tendinitis and suffer harsh criticism from Argentina hero Diego Maradona.

The World Cup was one prize to elude Platini, who led France

to the semifinals twice, captained the winning European championship side — when he scored nine goals in five matches — and earned the accolades of European Footballer of the Year and the Italian League's leading marksman three years in a row.

He helped Juventus to the European Cup, Cup-Winners Cup, Inter-Continental Cup and Italian League Cup after winning the French Cup with Nancy and the League with Saint-Etienne. He was invested two years ago as Chevalier in the French Legion d'Honneur.

In all, quite a collection for a man whose career was nearly stifled at the outset when, as a teenager, he was rejected by First Division Metz after a machine testing his lungs reported "a very feeble respiratory capacity and cardiac insufficiency."

The post-Platini outlook is none too rosy for France, who travel to Norway next month trying to keep alive their slender hopes of earning the right to defend their European title in West Germany next year.

The Soviet Union took a strong grip on the qualifying group when they subjected France to a rare defeat in Paris last October, leav-

ing the French a steep task quite likely beyond even Platini.

Bordeaux trio Philippe Ver-cruysse, Jean-Marc Ferreri and Jose Touré are the leading candidates to replace Platini, though none invites comparison with him.

"We're definitely not close to rediscovering a player of his dimension. Certainly it's true that the place of number one Frenchman is there for the taking, but it stops there. Michel Platini was the greatest player in the world two years ago," Ferreri said.

"We'll have to wait several years for a player to become Platini's true successor," said Ver-cruysse.

Team chief Michel told the Weekly France Football: "Great players like him make great teams. His departure leaves a big gap... it's too soon to foresee who will replace him in the French team. The whole team is going to be changed by it because his game influenced the output of all his team-mates."

Platini himself anticipated that last year's World Cup would mark the end of an era, but added before the squad set off for Mexico: "It's up to French football to see if it is tough, if it can go forward."

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PLAZA

DIAMOND HAUL

Performances 3:30, 5:10, 7:30, 10:45

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

CLASH OF THE NINJAS

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One Sterling	1.6800/10	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3465/70	Canadian dollar
	1.7750/60	West German marks
	2.0000/10	Dutch guilders
	1.4555/65	Swiss francs
	36.77/80	Belgian francs
	5.9380/9410	French francs
	1285/1286	Italian lira
	140.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.21/02240	Swedish crown
	6.6110/6160	Norwegian crowns
	6.6760/6810	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	473.50/474.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares maintained their early highs after a technical reaction to the recent declines but business was at minimal levels. Many operators wound down operations ahead of the long holiday weekend on both sides of the Atlantic.

Some dealers contacted by Reuters late Friday said they had hardly traded all afternoon. The FTSE 100 index at 1410 GMT Friday was steady at 2,173.2, up 19.5 points from Thursday's close.

The firm overnight showing on Wall Street promised to be continued at the opening Friday and was helping to hold shares near their highs. A batch of U.S. economic indicators came within forecasts and fuelled the early Wall Street rise.

International shares were steady although Beecham and Fisons stood out on demand from the U.S., dealers said. Beecham rose 19p to 526 and Fisons 15p to 374 while ICI was steady at 1,378.

Dealers said some of the market's nervousness over recent opinion polls showing the main opposition Labour Party gaining on the ruling Conservatives had abated somewhat.

A new opinion poll in the Guardian newspaper showed the Conservatives with 41 per cent of the vote while Labour held 33 per cent.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an unusually good Saturday to plan for future goals. Far-sighted potentials can animate you to make sure you use every available source to forge ahead.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can go after the personal longings that have been dormant for a long time. Take it easy tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get in touch with clever advisers who can help you gain personal goals easily. Strengthen relationships with friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can get together with your friends and start working on a new project. Do something for your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Study the various options you have that can help you to have a better position in life.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Get out of that rut you are in and tackle more important matters that are truly worthwhile.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Adopt a different attitude toward your mate and establish greater harmony between you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are naturally a home lover, but today is fine for going out and making new contacts of value.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put a course of action in motion early and you can have greater success in whatever your sphere of endeavor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can enjoy good friends today since you have an overwhelming feeling of good will.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Changes are in the offing where home and family are concerned, so accept them graciously.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Handle interests that are very important to you. Plan to expand in the near future. Be happy tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study every aspect of your financial interests. Confer with big entrepreneurs and get good advice.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have a charmed life, as it were. Your progeny will always look on others as friends and gain their favor and will also have the ability to charm the influential people who will become backers of this child. Give encouragement for the accomplishments here.

U.S. inflation accelerates

WASHINGTON (R) — Consumer prices rose by 0.4 per cent in April as rising energy and clothing prices helped push the inflation index higher, the U.S. Department of Labour said Friday.

The April increase in the consumer price index, though significant, is lower than what many financial analysts had expected. Most analysts anticipated consumer prices would rise by about 0.6 per cent last month.

The rise follows a similar 0.4 per cent jump in March and was led by advances in energy and clothing prices, which could raise fresh concerns about the impact rising prices of oil and imported goods will have on the inflation rate this year.

The Labour Department said the food and energy components each advanced 0.3 per cent in April, while apparel and upkeep increased by 1.5 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department confirmed Friday that the economy grew at a robust rate during the first quarter, but that was overshadowed by a sharp weakening in corporate balance sheets and signs of weakening demand in the current quarter.

The department said gross national product (GNP) grew by an annual rate of 4.4 per cent.

But the rise was due to a large building of business inventories which means slower growth during the current three month period as businesses slow production to work off those excess stocks.

Cannon film group reports huge losses

LOS ANGELES (R) — Cannon Group Inc., the independent film company that has been accused of inflating its revenues and profits, reported Thursday that it lost \$60.4 million last year.

Cannon, formed in 1967 and operated by two Hollywood mavericks from Israel, Mr. Menahem Golan and Mr. Yoram Globus, made its name with action films featuring stars such as Chuck Norris.

But the company has had no recent hits and in December Cannon needed to be rescued from some of its debt by Warner Communications Inc.

The loss announced Thursday compares with a \$15.2 million profit in 1985 and came despite revenues more than doubling to \$352.7 million.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating the company's accounting and disclosure procedures and shareholders have filed suit against Cannon alleging it inflated its revenues and earnings by not accounting quickly enough for films that fail at the box office.

Mr. Dennis Forst, an analyst at Security Pacific Merchant Bank, told Reuters that the 1986 loss was not as bad as some had feared. But he said Cannon may lose more unless it releases some successful movies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul denies plan to open Israeli office

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Thursday denied foreign reports it had agreed to the opening of an Israeli trade office in Seoul. Reports from Tel Aviv said the Israeli foreign ministry's director-general, Mr. Avraham Tamir, reached an agreement in principle in Seoul last week to open the trade office. A foreign ministry spokesman here told reporters Mr. Tamir had raised the issue during his Seoul visit. "But my government has reached no agreement (with him) on the establishment of a trade office," he said. Other ministry officials said Seoul had no plans to open an Israeli trade office in the foreseeable future. Israel still maintains diplomatic relations with South Korea but withdrew its embassy in 1978 as an austerity measure. At the same time the Seoul government was expanding ties with Arab countries to boost oil supplies for its rapid industrialisation programmes.

EC, EFTA agree on freer trade

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland (R) — Freer trade among 18 West European countries advanced Thursday with the signing of the first-ever accords between the European Community (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). They signed two conventions simplifying customs forms and procedures for goods travelling within the region, taking effect on Jan. 1, 1988. EC commissioner for external relations, Mr. Willy De Clercq, who signed for the 12-nation EC, said the move would make life easier for businesses and entrepreneurs in EC and EFTA states, where 13 different languages are spoken among the 350 million inhabitants. Trade between the 12-nation EC and the EFTA states of Switzerland, Sweden, Austria, Norway, Finland and Iceland, totals about \$150 billion a year. They signed a convention which will introduce a single administrative document for trade between EFTA and EC countries, replacing dozens of national documents for imports, exports and transit. The second convention sets up a common customs procedure for goods in transit through EFTA or EC states.

Islamic bank to lend Malaysia \$2.1m

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is to extend a \$2.1 million loan to Malaysia to help finance imports of industrial goods. The loan agreement was signed here by IDB Vice President Ousmane Seck and Malaysian Consul General Zain Al Abidin. The loan brings total IDB assistance to Malaysia over the past nine months to more than \$4 million.

Yugoslavia hikes petrol, food prices

BELGRADE (R) — The Yugoslav government Thursday substantially raised the prices of petrol, milk and meat in the latest blow to households struggling with almost 100 per cent annual inflation. The official Tanjug News Agency said the government raised prices for milk by 15 per cent, meat by 20 per cent, and petrol by almost 23 per cent. It was the second big petrol rise in Communist Yugoslavia in two months. Petrol went up 16 per cent on March 21 and 23.7 per cent in December. The government has pledged to cut inflation by restraining firms for raising prices but it has itself raised the prices of several essential goods recently in categories where it has the authority to do so directly, such as petrol. Prime Minister Branko Mikulic was quoted by officials Thursday as saying the petrol rise was needed due to a continuing fall of the dinar against hard currencies and to bring prices in line with those of neighbouring countries.

France ends gold import, export ban

PARIS (R) — France on Thursday abolished a long-standing regulation banning residents from importing or exporting gold coins and bullion. The finance ministry said the move, which puts gold on the same footing as any other merchandise, would boost the place of Paris among world bullion markets. It said it was also relaxing controls on French companies' foreign currency holdings and dealings and easing regulations which previously forbade shops and hotels from changing money for tourists. The bulk of France's once mazz-like foreign exchange control system was abolished last year.

Kuwait extends loans to African states

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development signed an accord Thursday to lend Lesotho 1.1 million dinars (\$4 million) for a sanitation project in Maseru, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA said. The soft-term loan, signed in the Lesotho capital, follows a 1.4 million dinar (\$4.9 million) accord signed in Harare on Wednesday for a road scheme in Zimbabwe. The loans will cover 49 per cent of the cost of a project for waste water collection and treatment in Maseru and 58 per cent of the cost of a 48-kilometre Mandimabw-Chibi-Tokwe road scheme in Zimbabwe. Both loans are for 20 years and carry an annual 0.5 per cent administrative fee. In addition, interest of 1.5 per cent a year will be charged on the Lesotho loan and 2.5 per cent on the loan to Zimbabwe. Despite its name, the Kuwait fund, the oldest Arab donor agency for "soft" development aid, lends widely throughout the Third World.

Oman banks expect difficulties

MUSCAT (R) — Several of Oman's banks are projecting a sharp fall in 1987 earnings as the full impact of last year's slide in oil prices strikes home and government budget constraint dampens the Gulf state's economy.

Oman's 22 local and foreign banks generally recorded a strong rise in 1986 earnings, but results were inflated by windfall currency profits after a 10.2 per cent devaluation of the Omani rial against the dollar.

Only this year has the full impact of an estimated 18 per cent decline in 1986 gross domestic product been felt by banks.

One banker in the Ruwi financial district of the capital area said: "1987 has been a very difficult year so far... there are no new projects to finance."

Oman generates about 80 per cent of government revenue from oil exports and although it is now selling at \$17.63 per barrel — more than double mid-1986 lows — public sector spending remains under tight control.

Banks have seen traditional business shrink, with loans and advances to the private sector down by 9.3 per cent.

With some banks projecting halving of their 1986 earnings this year, two small local banks may merge, while Citibank is reducing its Muscat operation considerably, bankers said.

Some other foreign banks, relying on their worldwide networks and stockholding sub-

funds since the early part of 1987 and there is little they can do with them. This has had a downward impact on interest rates... hopefully a long-awaited treasury bill system will be announced shortly."

Bankers say Oman will start a weekly offering of 91-day treasury bills next month, providing one way of investing surplus funds. The amount of cash that can be swapped into higher yielding currencies is strictly limited by authorities.

With new banking strategies taking time to generate revenue, bankers are resigned to weaker 1987 profits.

Hopes for a recovery in later years are closely linked to prospects for a pick-up in the economy and renewed government project spending in Muscat and outlying regions.

Mr. James McNie, general manager of Grindlays Bank, said: "The economic outlook remains heavily dependent on future oil demand and price trends and therefore short-term prospects may not, by historical standards, be particularly encouraging."

"But Oman has been able to counter the impact of the world petroleum glut more successfully than many other oil producing countries, and given the continuation of present policies, it seems likely that economic activity will recover after the setback in 1986," he added.

Latin American debtors see new loans despite move by Citicorp

MEXICO CITY (R) — Citicorp's decision to set aside \$3 billion against loan losses will not necessarily lead to new loans drying up, and could even turn out to be positive, according to senior officials from Latin American debtor nations.

"(The decision) is one that takes us into a new phase of the debt crisis that offers promise for improvements," Mexico's public credit director, Mr. Angel Gurria, told Reuters in an interview.

Citicorp, the largest U.S. bank holding company, announced the loan loss provision Tuesday in the first concrete step by a U.S. bank toward recognition that billions of dollars owed by developing countries may not be repaid.

The provision would mean a loss for the company of \$2.5 billion in the second quarter and \$1 billion for all of 1987.

Mr. Gurria described the Citicorp action as an intelligent move to clear the debt debris. "It might make it tough for debtors that don't make the necessary economic adjustments, but easier for those that do," he said.

He added that the next step was for U.S. banking regulators to act in a constructive way, strict U.S. controls having hindered some banks from new lending.

Some Latin American officials said the Citicorp move could darken prospects for new loans, but they pointed out that in any case new loans had been meagre despite U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker's call for new lending as part of his debt initiative 18

months ago. Officials from Brazil and Argentina, meanwhile, said they did not expect the Citicorp move to affect adversely their countries' continuing debt negotiations.

Brazil's Finance Minister Luiz Bresser Pereira said he still expected Citicorp, the parent of Citibank, to disburse new loans once debt rescheduling talks were concluded.

Argentina's under-secretary for economic policy, Mr. Juan Sommer, was cautiously optimistic. "We hope the decision will not affect the disbursement of new loans that have been agreed on or that could be agreed with this country," he said.

"This is not the first time a creditor bank has made a provision," Mr. Sommer noted, but added that it ought to be taken seriously as Citicorp was one of Argentina's main creditors.

According to its 1986 annual report, Citicorp had roughly \$4.6 billion of loans outstanding to Brazil at the end of last year, \$2.8 billion to Mexico, \$1.4 billion to Argentina and \$1 billion to Venezuela.

Banking sources said other major banks would likely follow Citicorp's lead, but some said not all banks were sufficiently strong to take a loss the size of Citicorp's.

Some foreign banking sources in Mexico City saw the Citicorp move as a way of putting further pressure on recalcitrant debtors to put their houses in order if they

wanted to qualify for new loans. "Essentially it means the debtor countries lose leverage in negotiations because Citicorp can turn round and say they have already taken the loss," one said.

Debtors have the option of refusing to pay unless banks grant concessions, though they have generally played this card sparingly. Peru, for instance, gained little ground by limiting payments to 10 per cent of export income in the last two years.

Commenting on Citicorp's decision, foreign bankers in Lima saw no impact on dealings with Peru.

Latin American debtors are likely to discuss the decision next week at a meeting of the 11-nation Cartagena group.

Meanwhile, the move by Citicorp may bring the debt crisis to centre stage at next month's economic summit, U.S. and Western officials say.

The Third World debt will, as always, be on the agenda when the Group of Seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — gather on June 8 for their summit in Venice.

The pressure there will be on the U.S., Japan and West Germany to deliver on promises to boost global economic growth.

The stakes are high. Growth is the answer to the debt crisis and to easing the trade imbalances that strain the world economy, economists say.

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Wills

ACROSS

- Uses an abacus
- Deprivation
- Seaweed
- Simon or Diamond
- Scope
- Zedon
- Fr. fashion magazine
- Baggy
- Thick nosepiece
- Puff
- Enterprise
- Full
- Ethiopian palace
- Wood peeling
- Grand pain
- Shield band
- River of Bern
- Engage in battle
- behavior
- Many millions
- Cape of Good Hope discoverer
- left field (pl. wrong)
- Color
- Most attractive
- Small island
- Talk impudently
- Engages in battle
- behavior
- Relationship to remember
- Tea, Mario
- of Cleave
- Command
- Small group
- Network
- Dendritic
- and leafless
- Transcribed
- Trampled

DOWN

- Once more
- Sandwich shop
- Pickle
- Progress
- Shallow lake
- Ship's deck
- Oceans
- Marquise de
- Arnie for one
- Torment
- Sleeveless robes
- Ceremony
- "Puff" in slang
- humorist
- Becomes hoary
- Scolded
- Low perilous
- Aloud shade
- Saltwater
- Avenge
- Excitement
- blouse
- Gobi green
- spot
- Eng. river
- Rider of an eight-footed horse
- Entrances
- Abode
- Win a bottle of wine
- Deserved
- Silly ends
- Partnership
- Discoloration
- Reveal
- Adjutant
- N.T. book
- Exhaust
- Humdrum
- Aura of
- Resque
- Use a scythe

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. INTO ARIA CHAIR
2. LEAP RINGS ABIE
3. LAKE TAIHARABIAN
4. SIBIRIAN RIVER LIO
5. GEMINIS TRO
6. CHARLIE MONATIES
7. ANA PAINTER DALL
8. DRIPS MAIL ASKED
9. STERNON TERRACE
10. TELL PERIUS
11. HANOTIARK MARIN
12. HANOTIARK MARIN
13. EMILIA MOTIRE PUNA
14. EMILIA MOTIRE PUNA
15. EMILIA MOTIRE PUNA

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

One degree above zero So what? Who cares?

NIFET YANNO DINGHI TEXMEP

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: OOOO TO "OOOOOO"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RODEO GUARD FALTER NUANCE
Answer: The bachelor thought he'd purchase some acreage while he was still this "UN-LAUNDED"

Fijian governor dissolves parliament

SUVA, Fiji (AP) — Fiji's top chiefs Friday endorsed a military coup that toppled the elected government but, in a compromise, declared that the governor-general would run the country until elections later this year.

Coup leader Lt.-Col. Sitiveni Rabuka announced that the Great Council of Chiefs, concluding three days of meetings, decreed that a 10-man committee would assist Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau in ruling the country.

Ganilau is the appointed representative of Queen Elizabeth II, the formal head of state of this former British colony.

After Col. Rabuka and other army personnel stormed parliament on May 14 and took the prime minister and his ethnic Indian-dominated cabinet hostage, Ganilau refused to swear in the coup leader's cabinet.

The governor-general insisted he, not Col. Rabuka, had the right to rule in the absence of the elected government.

The Great Council of Chiefs includes more than 60 traditional leaders who wield considerable

power and have a formal consultative role in government.

Ganilau on Friday dissolved the month-old parliament and declared all ministerial positions vacant. By doing so, he appeared to accept the overthrow of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra, who was freed from house arrest Tuesday.

Col. Rabuka, 38, the army's third in command before the coup, has espoused a policy of "Fiji for Fijians."

He said the chiefs designated him head of the 2,000-member army and the police. He will be a member of the governing committee, and also serve on an eight-man committee reviewing the constitution, he said.

New elections will be held in about six months, he said.

Only three ethnic Indians were named to the governing and constitutional commissions.

Col. Rabuka said he carried out his coup to prevent ethnic warfare between native Fijians, who make up 47 per cent of Fiji's 715,000 people, and Indians, who comprise 49 per cent.

Since independence in 1970, the government has been in the hands of native Fijians, while commerce has been controlled by the descendants of Indian labourers brought to Fiji by the British. After his election last month, Dr. Bavadra named Fiji's first Indian-dominated cabinet.

Col. Rabuka has demanded a new constitution guaranteeing that political power remains in the hands of ethnic Fijians.

Col. Rabuka, speaking in downtown Suva to about 500 ethnic Fijians waiting in a light drizzle, said Dr. Bavadra and his deputy Harish Shamur would be offered positions on the new committees, but he did not provide details.

Also named to the committees were three cabinet ministers from the former Alliance Party government headed by Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. Mr. Mara, who ruled Fiji since independence,

lost to Dr. Bavadra in the April 11 elections. Mr. Mara was staunchly pro-Western, while Dr. Bavadra pledged a non-aligned foreign policy.

Suva port officials said they believed Dr. Bavadra had taken refuge aboard the New Zealand frigate Wellington moored in the capital's harbour, but New Zealand officials denied this.

In Wellington, a spokesman for Prime Minister David Lange said Dr. Bavadra had not been on any New Zealand premises or property Friday and was not under New Zealand's protection, although New Zealand had previously given him shelter.

Meanwhile six Australian naval ships have been deployed near Fiji to evacuate Australians in the event of an emergency, Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Thursday.

Mr. Hawke, in a statement, said an Australian army company was on standby in Queensland to help in any such evacuation.

But he said the present situation in Fiji did not warrant the evacuation of the few thousand Australians there.

Indian riot death toll reaches 100 — report

MEERUT, India (AP) — Rioting by Hindus and Muslims has created chaos in the northern Indian city of Meerut, and senior military officers say at least 100 people have died, more than twice the official death toll.

The official death toll was 48 on Thursday, but official and unofficial sources said the real toll was much higher. Meerut is 67 kilometres north east of New Delhi.

Three senior military officers, speaking on condition of not being identified, told the Associated Press in an interview that at least 100 Hindus and Muslims had been killed and 34 hospitalised in the riots that began Monday, after the death of a militant radical Hindu.

Hindu-Muslim tension also plagues the old walled city of New Delhi and Baruch in western Gujarat state. Inter-faith violence has been increasing in India in recent years because of economic friction, social tension and political fanning of religious conflicts.

Gangs of Hindu youths set fires Thursday in three areas untouched by the earlier clashes in Meerut, a city of 1 million. Muslims set ablaze a smaller number

of Hindu shops, police said. The police responded by expanding a curfew from about 40 per cent of the city to about 75 per cent.

More than 9,000 army troops and paramilitary police have been brought in to try to stem the rioting. But clashes between Hindus and Muslims were reported Thursday morning, and bricks and stones were hurled at police and troops patrolling the streets.

"There is total chaos," said S.A. Khan, commander of the para-military Central Reserve Police Force said. "The local administration has completely failed and the mob has taken over the city."

District magistrate S.C. Saxena defended local officials. "Police cannot be everywhere. These incidents happened outside the curfew-bound areas. These are retaliatory measures," he said.

Almost 400 people have been arrested, according to R.S. Kaushik, an official who briefed reporters.

"It is a matter of serious concern that incidents are spreading to non-curfew areas," Mr. Kaushik said.

Sri Lanka smashes hideouts in new anti-rebel offensive

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's security forces have launched an offensive against Tamil separatist guerrillas and smashed rebel hideouts in their northern stronghold of Jaffna, official sources said Friday.

Among those killed in two days of fighting was the Jaffna leader of the largest rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a man known as Radha, the sources said.

Radha took over the Jaffna command after his better-known predecessor, Sathasivam Krishnamurthy, was killed in a March 1986 during fighting between rival rebel groups.

The sources said the military drive was directed mainly against Tigers' positions from which they pounded military camps with mortar bombs.

The Tigers have had virtual control of the Jaffna peninsula, inhabited by about 800,000 people, mostly Tamils, during the past two years.

The state-run Daily News Friday quoted the National Security Minister Lalith Athulathurudhi as telling a provincial meeting that a "relentless attack" on rebel hideouts was underway in the Jaffna peninsula.

Large Soviet fire threatens to cross border into China

PEKING (R) — A large forest fire in the Soviet Union is threatening to cross the border into China, which is already fighting its worst blaze in almost 40 years, the New China News Agency said Friday.

The Soviet fire has reached the 150-metre-wide Ergun River that forms part of the frontier, and was very likely to cross into the Chinese region of Inner Mongolia if the wind strengthened, the agency said.

China's fire is also spreading out of control towards inner Mongolia, official Chinese reports have said.

It was not immediately clear how far the two fires were apart.

He told the meeting in Galle on Wednesday that advancing troops from Palaly, the main northern airbase, were destroying guerrilla bunkers and camps.

The sources said troops and rebels also clashed at Elephant Pass, a narrow strip of land that links the peninsula with the mainland.

Diplomatic sources said the government had massed about 2,000 troops in the peninsula over the past week for the attack.

Some troops marched to Elephant Pass, some were airlifted to Palaly while others were transported by ship, Tamil sources said.

Parliament voted Thursday night to extend a country-wide state of emergency for another month after the government said the rebels, fighting to set up an independent state for Tamils, were "relentlessly pursuing their campaign of terror and violence."

The emergency, first imposed in 1983 and since extended monthly, gives extra powers to security forces to battle the guerrillas.

The conflict between the Tamils and the Sinhalese majority has cost more than 6,000 lives in the past four years.

Vranitzky finds no proof that Waldheim took part in war crimes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chancellor of Austria planned to meet with Attorney General Edwin Meese III to review a decision barring Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from the United States.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky said there is no proof Dr. Waldheim was involved in World War II atrocities.

Mr. Meese requested the meeting with Mr. Vranitzky. Earlier this week, the Austrian leader met with President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz, who reaffirmed their decision to bar Dr. Waldheim despite Mr. Vranitzky's assertions the move has cast a shadow over relations between the two countries.

After seeing Mr. Reagan on Thursday, Mr. Vranitzky was asked at a news conference if he thought the Americans might change their minds. "Frankly, no," he said.

In a statement issued after the half-hour session, Mr. Reagan said: "I explained to the chancellor the statutory basis for the decision. I also assured the chancellor that the United States and Austria will remain close friends. We both share a strong commitment to human rights and democracy."

Dr. Waldheim, a United Nations secretary general for 10 years, was elected to the predominantly ceremonial post last year. During the campaign, the World Jewish Congress alleged that Dr. Waldheim was involved in World War II atrocities when he was a German army officer.

After examining the evidence and bearing Dr. Waldheim's side of the case, the Justice Department on April 27 placed him on a "watch list" used to stop some foreigners from getting visas to enter the United States.

Soviets to probe Martian moon

PASADENA, California (AP) — Two Soviet spacecraft orbiting Mars in 1989 will send a probe that will tie itself with harpoons to the moon Phobos, and another to hop over the moon's surface, a Soviet scientist has said.

The two main, unmanned spacecraft will be launched within a few days of each other in June 1988 for a 400-day mission, said Viatcheslav Linkin, a laboratory director at the Soviet Institute for Space Research in Moscow.

They are to arrive near Mars in April 1989 to send out the first probe. The second probe is to be sent to the moon several months after that, Linkin said.

Linkin's presentation at the International Conference on Solar System Exploration came a day after Soviet space scientist Roald Kremerov outlined Soviet plans to launch six manned spacecraft — two each in 1992, 1994 and 1996 — to land one or two automated rovers and other instruments on Mars.

The rover or rovers are to pick up Martian rocks and return them to an orbiter for a trip back to Earth. It would be the first time chunks of another planet were brought back.

The Soviet Mars Programme is "very large, well-executed and imaginative," said California Institute of Technology planetary scientist Bruce Murray.

"We (the United States) have been living in the past still imagining that our Apollo (lunar landing) achievement granted us supremacy in space," said Murray, vice president of the non-profit Planetary Society and former director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The United States' planetary exploration programme has been stalled by tight budgets and last year's explosion of the space shuttle Challenger. A U.S. mission to bring Martian rocks to Earth is not expected until after 2000, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently postponed the launch of its Mars-orbiting Mars Observer spacecraft from 1990 to 1992.

Linkin said that at times, the Phobos mission's orbiters will hover only 165 to 230 feet (50 to 70 metres) above the surface of Phobos, which measures less than 27 kilometres in diameter.

During an early approach, one orbiter is to release a 54-kilogram landing probe. The probe will glide toward Phobos' surface, fire small rockets skyward to force itself down to the ground, then "put down harpoons with ropes... (and) reel the ropes" to affix itself to the tiny moon, Linkin said.

Several months later, one of the orbiters is to send the second probe to the surface to Phobos. Linkin said the second probe will use rotating legs to hop across Phobos' surface, stopping in each location to collect information.

The hopping probe will study physical characteristics and chemical makeup of Phobos' rock.

U.S. says Pakistan needs radar planes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pakistan needs U.S. early warning radar planes to defend its borders against Soviet planes that are chasing Afghan rebels, government officials have told Congress.

"Failure to respond to Pakistan's clear need for enhanced self-defence capabilities can only undermine the trust which forms the basis for our relationship," said Robert Peck, deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs.

Mr. Peck was testifying Thursday before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on

Asian and Pacific Affairs, the first major step by President Ronald Reagan's administration on the Pakistani request.

India, however, has opposed providing neighbouring Pakistan with sophisticated early-warning radar systems. The two countries have fought three wars since the partitioning of the subcontinent in 1947.

New Delhi fears Pakistan will use the systems to spy on India. It claims such a deal would threaten the military balance in the region and force India to spend money on its own surveillance

system to counter the U.S.-supplied equipment.

Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan, plays a major role in the so-called "Reagan doctrine" of providing U.S. aid for insurgencies which oppose Soviet-backed governments.

The administration is providing aid to the Afghan rebels fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan. The rebels have been operating from bases in Pakistan and Soviet planes have increasingly crossed the Afghan-Pakistan border in recent years to attack the rebels inside Pakistan, Mr. Peck said.

Bonn reportedly arrests KGB, E. German spies

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Two Communist spies, one working for the Soviet KGB and the other for East Germany's secret service, have been arrested separately in West Germany, the national newspaper Die Welt reported Friday.

In Bonn, a federal security source contacted by the Associated Press confirmed the arrest of the suspected KGB spy, a native of West Germany, but had no information on the reported apprehension of the East German man.

Federal prosecutor's spokesman could not be reached immediately for comment. Die Welt said West Germany's counter-intelligence service caught the two East Bloc agents within the

previous 48 hours. It said the KGB suspect, identified as "Alwin K.," a 42-year-old former anti-tank gunner in the West German army, was arrested in lower Saxony state.

The KGB suspect gathered military intelligence in West Germany for the Soviet secret service since the mid 1970s, according to Die Welt, which cited no sources for its report.

Die Welt identified the suspected East German spy as a 30-year-old doctor who was nabbed during a "conspiratorial meeting" with a contact in the north western city of Aachen, on the Belgian border.

Die Welt gave no more details on the activities of either suspect.

Seoul opposition seeks resignation of government

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The head of the main opposition party demanded Friday that Prime Minister Leo Shin-Yong's 23-member cabinet resign because of an alleged government coverup in the torture death of a student dissident.

Kim Young-Sam, president of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), also called on President Chun Doo-Hwan to apologize.

"The current cabinet should resign immediately to take responsibility for the killing of Park Chong-Chul by torture," Mr. Kim told a news conference in his hometown, Koje, on Korea's south coast.

The government had no immediate response to the demands.

Government prosecutors

announced Thursday that three more police officers were involved in the Jan. 13 death of Park, a 21-year-old student at Seoul National University.

Authorities said in January that only two police officers, a lieutenant and a sergeant, were involved.

The case, however, drew fresh attention last Tuesday when a group of Roman Catholic priests alleged in a statement that the two policemen arrested in January were not actually involved in the torture.

The priests, citing testimony from unnamed sources, identified three other police officers they said were involved.

Senior prosecutor Chung Ku-Young said Thursday an investigation had been under way before the priests' statement.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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E IS FOR ENTRY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ QJ63
♥ 8532
♦ 453
♣ Q8

WEST EAST
♠ 92 ♠ 109754
♥ 1097 ♥ J
♦ J974 ♦ K108
♣ AKJ8 ♣ Q1097

SOUTH
♠ AK
♥ AKQ64
♦ A62
♣ 653

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
4♥ Pass King Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

Even seemingly simple hands can be complicated by a lack of entries to one hand or the other. Sometimes, you have to do some work to develop an entry.

North just about had enough to dredge up a raise to two hearts—possession of four-card support for his partner's suit was the key factor. Despite his powerful hand, South could do no more than go on

to game. West led the king of clubs, then continued with ace and another. Declarer took some time to consider the possibilities of the hand. Ten tricks were there for the taking—five trumps, four spades and the ace of diamonds—except for one snag: there was no guaranteed entry to dummy.

One possibility was to hope the king of diamonds was onside. A surer line was to use a trump as an entry. There would be no problem if the suit split 2-2, but what about a 3-1 division? If declarer ruffed the third club and was then forced to draw three rounds of trumps, he would have to fall back on finding the king of diamonds right.

Declarer found an elegant solution to his dilemma—instead of ruffing the third club, he discarded a diamond from dummy. The defenders had no recourse. West shifted to a diamond, dummy's queen fetched the king and declarer took his ace. He drew trumps in three rounds, cashed the ace-king of spades and then used the tables' eight of trumps as an entry to cash dummy's two spades, getting rid of his diamond losers.

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Dentist misses 28 cavities in 1 patient

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish health authorities have said they are considering an upper age limit for dentists after a patient of an 81-year-old dentist complained he had failed to spot over two dozen cavities. The woman, who had been the dentist's patient for eight years, filed a formal complaint after visiting another dentist who discovered 28 cavities and a host of inadequate filling work, the Social Welfare Board said. The board, responsible for medical licences, said it had let the unnamed dentist off with a caution. Earlier this week, an 87-year-old colleague was stripped of his licence after performing operations with outdated methods. The board said the 87-year-old, in active practice since 1924, had caused several patients acute suffering after attempting complicated operations for which he lacked any specialist training.

Nixon enrolled into French academy

PARIS (R) — Former U.S. President Richard Nixon was made an associate of France's elite Academy of Fine Arts which includes artist Salvador Dali and film director Federico Fellini among its members. Mr. Nixon was nominated to the 300-year-old academy as the academy's 15th foreign associate in place of the late U.S. pianist Arthur Schnitzler, for introducing laws during his presidency that allowed U.S. citizens to write off donations to restore French museums against tax.

Export of Sunflowers held up for 6 months

LONDON (R) — Vincent Van Gogh's masterpiece Sunflowers, sold here at auction for a record £24.7 million (\$41.5 million) to a Japanese firm in March, has been prevented from leaving Britain for up to six months. Junior Arts Minister Richard Luce suspended a decision on an export licence for the painting, to allow a British buyer to raise enough money to purchase it. Major works of art can be blocked from leaving Britain for half a year when an export licence is sought by a foreign buyer, to enable British buyers to match the price. However, a ministry spokesman said the export licence was likely to be granted after six weeks if there was no serious offer in sight by then. Sunflowers was sold at Christie's auction house for more than double the record auction price for a picture.

Replica of Lindbergh plane lands in Paris

PARIS (AP) — A replica of the Spirit of St. Louis touched down Thursday night at Le Bourget airfield, 60 years after Charles Lindbergh made history with his solo nonstop Atlantic crossing. Pilot Verne Jobst made two passes overhead, wiggling the wings in a tribute to Lindbergh and to two French flyers who died attempting Atlantic crossings. The Concorde, a modern supersonic plane en route to Charles De Gaulle Airport nearby, flew low over Le Bourget in salute just before Jobst landed. Jobst made just a brief spin in the replica, which was built 10 years ago to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Lindbergh's flight.

210 million Chinese are short sighted

HONG KONG (R) — About 210 million Chinese are short sighted and the country's production of spectacles is unable to meet the rising demand, an official Chinese news agency said. The China News Service said in a report received here that most of the short-sighted, representing 20 per cent of China's total population, lived in the cities. The agency said China's optical industry produced 30 million pairs of glasses a year, which could only meet about 80 per cent of the demand.

Bush gets more gifts than Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President George Bush outdid his boss in one area last year, receiving far more presents than President Reagan, according to a financial disclosure statement. Mr. Bush received \$28,096.48 worth of gifts last year, compared to slightly less than \$13,000 in presents reported by Mr. Reagan. The most valuable item on the list was a \$3,500 ivory elephant tusk from a Hong Kong shipping group. In all, Mr. Bush listed 81 gifts worth \$100 or more including several statues and jewellery items, a 18 centimetres statue of Mickey Mouse, and 34 packages of elastic golf gloves. Mr. Bush did not report any gifts from Mr. Reagan, although the White House said the president had received a \$135 footstool from the vice president. U.S. law requires government officials to disclose gifts valued at more than \$100. The officials can keep all gifts from Americans. Gifts from foreign officials must be turned over to the government if their value exceeds \$165.

Idle factories to be turned into ski runs

TOKYO (R) — Japanese skiers weary of journeying to faraway slopes on crowded trains and highways will soon be able to stay in the city and ski in a six-storey refrigerated building, a Japanese company has said. The "urban slalom" building will come complete with three adjoining spiral slopes, three lifts and nine artificial snow machines, a spokesman for the Kajima Construction Company said. Temperatures throughout the building, to be built at an estimated cost of eight billion yen (\$57 million), will be kept at between zero and five degrees Celsius (32-41 degrees Fahrenheit) using modern warehouse refrigerating technology, he told Reuters. At least three Japanese companies have begun feasibility studies with Kajima to convert idle factory buildings and warehouses into urban ski slopes, the spokesman said.

Schoolboy shot by fellow-pupil

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — A 15-year-old boy was seriously wounded when a pupil shot him with a pistol which he thought was a toy, a school spokesman said. The boy saw the gun in a briefcase belonging to a teacher. Mistaking it for a toy, he pulled the trigger twice without anything happening, the spokesman said. The third time, a shot went off and a bullet hit Sayeed Basha in the shoulder near the heart.

Lion visits stock exchange floor

AMSTERDAM (R) — Bulls and bears are commonplace in financial market jargon, but Tuesday was the day of the lion on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange. As part of a publicity campaign to launch its first bond issue, the state-owned Dutch bank Postbank N.V. had a caged lion displayed on the floor of the bourse. The bank, which is listed for future privatisation, said it hoped the lion, its corporate emblem, would give a roaring start to official trading in the 400 million guilder (\$200 million) bond issue.

Diego Rivera painting fetches \$495,000

NEW YORK (R) — A painting of a young girl with sunflowers by Mexican painter Diego Rivera has fetched \$495,000 at an auction at Christie's, setting a world record price for a work by a Latin American artist, the auction house said. The painting was bought by the Gerald Peters Gallery of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The record price for a painting by a Latin American artist was set in 1984 when Sotheby's sold a Diego Rivera painting for \$429,000.

Hungary surveys centenarians

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary is surveying the health and "sociological state" of people aged 100 or more to discover the secrets of longevity, the official Hung. News Agency MTI said. Apart from genetic factors, Budapest's Semmelweis Medical University is paying particular attention to environmental factors and the lifestyle of the people concerned. There are estimated to be more than 200 centenarians among Hungary's population of 10.6 million, MTI said.

Mozambican rebels to free foreign hostages

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Mozambique's South African-backed rebel movement has said Thursday its guerrillas seized seven foreigners at a mission farm in central Mozambique last week but that it would release them soon.

Paulo Oliveira, Lisbon spokesman of the Mozambican National Resistance (MNR), said rebel units took the group on May 13 from a farm and clinic compound belonging to the Mission Organisation youth with a mission in Sofala province "for their own safety."

Contacted by the Portuguese capital by the Associated Press, Oliveira denied the rebel movement, also known as Renamo, had kidnapped the foreigners or was holding them for political gain by forcing their governments to meet with Renamo officials — a practice the rebels have used in past abductions.

Oliveira said the foreigners, including an 18-month-old baby, were "evacuated from a dangerous war zone for their own safety," adding Renamo was seeking

turn west from its destination of Maputo airport and crash just inside South African territory.

Vasin called for the resumption of three-way investigations to establish who was responsible for setting up the beacon.

Asked if Moscow blamed South Africa for the crash, he said: "We do not say so. But it was a terrorist act and to find out who actually placed the false beacon, we need another inquiry."

He could not say whether the decoy was in South African or Mozambican territory but he said the plane crashed only 200 metres inside South Africa.

Pretoria says the plane veered off course because the crew mistakenly tuned their radar to Mat-

sapa airport in Swaziland instead of Maputo.

But Vasin, using maps to illustrate the final route of the plane, said its radar had been tuned precisely to Maputo airport and the crew believed they were about to land there.

They ignored the altimeter suggesting otherwise because they believed it was faulty, he added.

Vasin said no changes had been made to Soviet Airlines as a result of the crash experience but crews had been briefed on how to handle such situations in future.

He avoided a question on whether Soviet crews were still flying the Mozambican presidential plane.

'Sabotage caused Machel plane crash'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has said that deliberate sabotage caused a plane crash in which Mozambican President Samora Machel and 35 other people were killed last October.

But it stopped short of blaming South Africa for the disaster. Deputy Civil Aviation Minister Ivan Vasin said Soviet and Mozambican investigators, who at first cooperated to establish the cause of the crash, rejected a report issued unilaterally by Pretoria blaming the Soviet crew.

Instead, he told reporters, the Soviet and Mozambican experts confirmed preliminary findings announced in January that a decoy beacon caused the Soviet Tupolev-134 to make a 40 degree

turn west from its destination of Maputo airport and crash just inside South African territory.

Vasin called for the resumption of three-way investigations to establish who was responsible for setting up the beacon.

Asked if Moscow blamed South Africa for the crash, he said: "We do not say so. But it was a terrorist act and to find out who